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OPENING OF THE ROYAL ALBERT HALL BY THE QUEEN: THE PRINCE OF WALES DECLARING THE HALL OPEN.

DISPATCH OF BUSINESS IN THE COMMONS.

We do not know to what extent the general public outside the House of Commons feels interested in the due dispatch of the business transacted in that House, but, assuredly, there are few, if any, members or officers of the House itself to whom the urgent necessity of change of some sort is not painfully apparent. If the country were thoroughly aware of the slovenly manner in which no small portion of the work of legislation in the Lower House is hurried through, and of the advantage that might be derived from a more wisely-ordered mode of conducting business in the Commons, it would probably demand a large reform of it as absolutely indispensable. Nobody can charge the representatives of the United Kingdom with any lack of diligence, of endurance, or of self-sacrifice in their discharge of the responsibilities imposed upon them by their respective constituent bodies. For at least four months in every year their labours may well be described as "in season and out of season." The arrears which begin to accumulate, beyond all possibility of satisfactory management, by the time that the Easter recess has arrived, render the lives of members from Easter to Whitsuntide, and still more from Whitsuntide to the end of the Session, a perfect drive, excluding all opportunity for quiet deliberation.

At the commencement of the present Session a Select Committee was appointed, at the instance of the Government, to inquire and to report as to the likeliest means of expediting the dispatch of public business in the House of Commons. Their report has been laid upon the table of the House, but we cannot say that we are sanguine in the expectation of its leading to any considerable improvement. We propose to touch upon two or three of the recommendations it contains, and to state with as much brevity as possible the view which we take of them.

The first to which we make reference is that of adding to the length of the Session by having Parliament called together in November instead of in February. Instances of this have occurred two or three times of late years, occasioned, it is true, by exceptional causes, but we cannot say that experience has added much weight to the reasons which have been urged in favour of the practice. An extension of the Session by adding a month to the fore end of it would do little to facilitate the progress of real business. It would afford just so much more available space for floods of talk, and, we fear, nothing else. It certainly would not curtail the length of the Session, at the summer end of it, for a single day. It would take from the Government just that time towards the close of the year during which it decides upon its proximate line of policy, and gives its attention to the preparation of those measures which it may have determined to lay before Parliament. If adopted at all, it ought to be adopted in connection with other measures, and especially with one to prohibit the transaction of business, unless by a special vote of the House itself, after the hour of midnight. We think it unlikely, however, that the House will consent thus materially to abridge its autumnal and winter holidays, because nobody can be more fully convinced than the members themselves that the gain to be derived by the public from their loss would be all but inappreciable. Both the Speaker and Sir Erskine May appear to have regarded the proposition in that light.

A second recommendation of the Committee appears to be more feasible, while, at first glance, it would seem to be well adapted to secure a more rapid progress in the dispatch of business. It is to the effect that one night in the week (say Monday) the House should go into Committee of Supply without allowing private members the privilege they have heretofore exercised of bringing forward, by way of amendment of the motion for that purpose, any matters assuming the shape of "grievances." The Estimates would then, it is supposed, be much more rapidly proceeded with than they are at present, and, this done, other important legislation might be more conveniently and deliberately got through. We have our doubts, however, whether the plan would answer. We are not quite certain whether, if it did answer the end contemplated by it, it ought to be adopted. Parliament, it should be remembered, exercises, or ought to exercise, a double function. The business of voting Supplies to the Government is not the sole business for which it is convened. It is the supreme guardian of the liberties of the people. Its discussions are supposed to enlighten public opinion upon all those questions which are believed to concern the well-being of the community. To be sure, it has used its privilege of late to an excess which verges upon abuse; and it would be a wise and patriotic thing in private members to put some restriction upon their liberty in this regard. But we have some apprehension lest one concession of the kind demanded should presently lead on to others, and should, in effect, convert the House of Commons into a merely consultative Council to the Executive Government. Waiving this constitutional objection, however, we are not convinced that the gain of time to be derived from it would be so large as is anticipated. The facilities for discussion which now precede going into Committee, and which it is the recommendation of the Select Committee to abridge, would probably lead to a great increase of talk upon the Estimates themselves—and of talk which would be very apt to run into irrelevancy. It may be worth while trying the experiment, but we look upon it as doubtful whether

the House will consent to part with any portion of its historic privileges.

Something might be gained, no doubt, by the adoption of the *clôture*, which we believe is the practice of every other Legislative Assembly in the civilised world—and something might also be effected for economising time by a more perfect mechanical method of taking divisions. In regard to the former, it must be confessed that debates upon important topics have of late been protracted beyond all reasonable limits. Long after a subject has been completely thrashed out, hosts of speakers will start up on both sides of the chair, to reproduce, with wearisome prolixity, whatever has been said upon it by preceding members. It must be admitted, moreover, that the leaders on both sides are in the habit of making longer speeches than is needful, or desirable, and that, in point of fact, they have the *clôture* pretty much in their own hands. It would be better, we think, that the House should have the power of voting the close of the debate. We do not apprehend that it would be wantonly or unfairly exercised, and the House ought not to be subject to the annoyance inflicted upon it by a discussion of four or six days, when everything that can be said upon the subject of it has already been said on the first two of them. But, in truth, the whole question of a quicker dispatch of business in the House of Commons is beset with practical difficulties, and we are afraid that no material improvement will be witnessed in it, unless the changes which have been proposed for economising time and labour go very much deeper than anything recommended by the Select Committee.

FOREIGN AND COLONIAL NEWS.

FRANCE.

(From our own Correspondent in Paris.)

Wednesday, April 5.

The Commune has marched apace. The moment it was installed it threw off the mask and, instead of confining itself to mere municipal affairs, became at once Convention, Commune, and Committee of Public Safety. It launched its decrees, seized and confiscated private property, suppressed newspapers, issued arbitrary orders of arrest, condemned individuals to death *par contumace*, and has wound up by proclaiming war against the Government of Versailles—all, too, within the space of five days.

Not content with exercising complete sway by means of the armed force at its disposition within the walls of Paris, it has sent out its reconnoitring parties southward and westward of the capital, as if with the intention of inviting attack on the part of the Versailles authorities, and it was not long before the opportunity for a collision ensued. Early on Sunday morning the Parisian National Guards installed at Courbevoie found themselves face to face with the advanced guard of the Versailles army, when, after a short parley between a commander of gendarmes and the commander of the 118th Battalion, the National Guards opened fire, whereupon some artillery, placed in battery in advance of Mont Valérien, proceeded to shell the barracks at Courbevoie to dislodge the National Guards posted there. This object attained, a battery was brought up to the adjacent Rond Point, while the retreating National Guards were being pursued across the bridge of Neuilly by gendarmes, sailors, and some chasseurs, who chased them, it is said, behind the barricade erected there, where they had already re-formed, and renewed the fusillade for some considerable distance up the Avenue de Neuilly, a vigorous cannonade being kept up from the Rond Point at the same time. Whatever artillery the National Guards may have had proved to be of but little service to them, as it replied only feebly and at intervals to the incessant cannonade kept up by the Versailles troops. Most of the National Guards retired, it is said, within the fortifications, leaving some Frans-Tireurs and Garibaldians to cover their retreat, the troops of the Assembly retreating, in their turn, on a sharp fusillade being directed against them from the ramparts. A considerable number of National Guards are believed to have been killed and wounded; and one of the shells, falling in the Avenue de Neuilly, killed a child six years of age, while another wounded one of the pupils of a young ladies' school on its way home from church. At Courbevoie a young man was also killed by a shell falling through the roof of the house into the room where he was at work.

While all this was transpiring some 200 National Guards, who had advanced as far as Puteaux, found themselves surrounded by a detachment of gendarmes and ex-sergents-de-ville and a few troops of the Line. Suddenly, however, the latter raised the butt-ends of their rifles and set up a shout of "Vive la République!" The gendarmes and sergents-de-ville, finding themselves, as it were, between two fires, at once retreated; and the National Guards returned to Paris, accompanied by the troops of the Line, the number of whom was but insignificant, but who were conducted in great state to the Hôtel de Ville, and there received with fraternal acclamations. As it was, some National Guards appear to have been taken prisoners and marched off to Versailles under a strong escort. A few soldiers of the Line captured in their ranks were immediately shot, it is said, as deserters.

While the fighting was going on, and throughout the afternoon, considerable excitement prevailed in Paris, and the Commune sat *en permanence* the entire time. The gates of the capital in the direction of Versailles were closed, and only opened at certain intervals to permit the passage of persons provided with special passes. The Generals of the Commune decided in council to make simultaneous attacks on Versailles by both banks of the Seine at break of day the following morning. Generals Bergeret and Duval were to operate on the right bank, and Generals Eudes and Flourens on the left. In pursuance of this determination, at half-past six o'clock in the evening, numerous battalions of National Guards, who had been assembling during the afternoon in the Champ de Mars, marched towards Vaugirard, Issy, and Billancourt, to be in readiness for the attack; while the battalions of Montrouge marched towards Châtillon. Those of the right bank of the Seine assembled throughout the evening and during the night in the Avenue de Neuilly, the Avenue de la Grand Armée, and the Champs Elysées.

Having ascertained, at one o'clock in the morning, that the army of Versailles had abandoned its positions at the Rond Point of Courbevoie, the column commanded by General Bergeret commenced its movements at daybreak. The officers told the men that the commander of Mont Valérien had pro-

mised to observe neutrality, while the garrison were even ready to second their action. Elated at this intelligence, the National Guards marched gaily forward. Divided into two columns, the forces of General Bergeret advanced simultaneously by Puteaux and Nanterre. The first column had arrived within 200 yards of Mont Valérien, when the fort suddenly opened fire, and the National Guards, struck with terror and surprise, fled in every direction. During their retreat the fort ceased firing, and the Parisians profited by the lull to place some cannon in battery at the Rond Point of Courbevoie. Mont Valérien opening fire again, successively dismounted three of the pieces, whereupon the National Guards retreated with the remainder. At the bridge of Neuilly the officers in vain endeavoured to rally their men, calling on them to take the fort by assault; but the latter refused point-blank, and entered the capital by the Avenue de l'Impératrice, proclaiming, as usual, that they had been betrayed.

Meanwhile the second column of General Bergeret's forces, with the troops of General Duval, had reached Nanterre, spite of the fire of Mont Valérien, and after a halt in that village, pushed forward to Rueil, and then advanced upon La Celle St. Cloud, where an engagement took place with some soldiers of the Line. After half an hour's fusillade, Mont Valérien suddenly reopened fire, and the National Guards were forced to retreat successively to Rueil and Nanterre, and subsequently re-entered Paris late in the afternoon.

Upwards of 60,000 National Guards had been assembled during the night in the vicinity of the Portes de Versailles and Vanyres, for the attack to be made on the left bank of the Seine. At eight in the morning these troops, commanded by Generals Eudes and Flourens, advanced upon the plateau of Châtillon, which had been abandoned by the detachments of the army of Versailles, formerly stationed there. At this moment a battery, installed at the terrace of the Château of Meudon, opened fire upon the National Guards, who retired behind Fort Issy, which began to reply to the Meudon battery with some heavy siege guns placed there the night before. Sustained by the fire of the fort, the National Guards advanced and drove a detachment of gendarmes and horse chasseurs out of Clamart, and pushing forward to Moulineaux, thence cannonaded the heights of Meudon, which, together with Mont Valérien, vigorously replied. Suddenly the National Guards descended upon Bas-Meudon and after a sharp engagement drove out the sailors installed there. They then advanced to storm the heights of Meudon, whence they purposed to advance upon Ville d'Avray to join the forces of Generals Bergeret and Duval. They failed, however, to take the heights, and, repulsed by the troops, were forced to evacuate their positions; and at nightfall, when the cannoneade ceased, the army of Versailles, it was said, had re-occupied the plateau of Châtillon.

Throughout the afternoon, on both sides of the river, the avenues leading to the various gates were crowded with disbanded National Guards, ambulance carriages, and wounded borne on stretchers. Crowds of men, women, and children assembled at all the entrances, and eagerly asked the stragglers for information concerning the pending engagements. Upon re-entering the capital the greater part of the stragglers who wished to hurry home were arrested by sentinels and forced to remain under arms in readiness to return to the scene of action, should it be necessary. The fighting was renewed yesterday, and a considerable portion of the Communist army, with artillery, was surrounded and captured.

Upon entering upon its functions last Wednesday, the first act of the Commune was to note that the Comité Central had well merited the approval of the country and the Republic. On the following morning one learnt that the Commune had decreed the abolition of the conscription, that all able-bodied men were to form part of the National Guard, and that all tenants were absolved from paying the rent due by them for the quarters of October, January, and April. Executive, financial, military, industrial, and educational commissions had also been formed, as well as commissions of justice, general safety, subsistences, foreign affairs, and public services, the members of which were chosen among the different members of the Commune, who, by a decree of Friday, were charged with the administration of their various arrondissements. The rapidity with which the question of rents had been decided made everyone hope that a speedy solution would be given to the question relative to bills of exchange. On Saturday, however, the Commune prudently invited the different syndical chambers and various commercial societies to send in any suggestions they might have to make for the settlement of the difficulty before April 10. On Sunday the *Journal Officiel* appeared with an *arrêté* of the Commission of Justice, charging Citizen Protot, avocat, (who defended Mégé when he was tried for shooting a police agent) with the expedition of all civil and military affairs, and authorising him to take the necessary measures to guarantee the individual liberty of citizens. General Brimels, recently named to one of the three military commands of Paris, was dismissed by a decree of the Commune of the same day. Another decree, issued also on Sunday, placed the maximum of public salaries at 6000f. On Monday the Commune, smarting under the attack of the preceding day, decreed the accusation of MM. Thiers, Favre, Picard, Dufaure, Simon, and Pothuau, and the sequestration of their property. It declared it adopted the families of those citizens who might fall fighting against the Royalists for Paris and the Republic. It moreover issued a decree by which it decreed the separation of Church and State, suppressed the Budget of Religion, and confiscated all ecclesiastical property. In consequence of the resignation of several members of the Commune, partial elections were to take place on Wednesday. In presence of pending events, the Commune thought proper to decree their adjournment on Tuesday.

On Tuesday, March 28, M. Rampont, Postmaster-General, received a visit from a M. Theisz, who ordered him to surrender his post in the name of the Comité Central. M. Rampont declined, and continued his functions until Thursday, when M. Theisz, accompanied by the 80th Battalion of National Guards, again presented himself, in the name of the Commune, and M. Rampont retired before the force displayed, together with all the post-office employés. During Friday not a single post-office opened, and now the post is in operation only in Paris, although, by a notice published yesterday morning, letters can be sent into the provinces and to foreign countries. The post-office administration having carried all the stamps and matériel off to Versailles the new director, M. Theisz, is in a difficult position. No letters or newspapers arrive in Paris from outside through the post, any more than they leave the capital.

The *Figaro* reappeared on the morning of Wednesday, March 30, but its offices received a visit from the National Guards of the Commune the same day, and it has been again obliged to suspend its publication. Since March 18 six newspapers have ceased to appear in Paris: *Figaro*, *Gaulois* (published at Versailles), *La Presse*, *Le Français*, *Électeur Libre*, *L'Ami de la France*. The Imperial Bureau of the *Presse* has been re-established at the Ministry of the Interior, and this morning the *Paris Journal* received a "communiqué" for

having calumniated the heroic National Guard of Paris while it was being slaughtered by the Gendarmes of Versailles.

Citizen Assi, ex-president of the Comité Central, member of the Commune, has been arrested by his colleagues, and is at present confined in the Conciergerie—it is presumed on account of reactionary tendencies.

I have just learned that at four o'clock yesterday morning the troops re-entered Marseilles from all sides. They took the positions held by the National Guards, Garibaldians, and disbanded soldiers, who abandoned their posts, leaving their firelocks and accoutrements behind.

SPAIN.

The King opened the Cortes on Monday. His Majesty thanked the members for the high honour they had conferred on him, alluded to various measures to be proposed for the improvement of the country, and announced his intention of identifying himself, his wife, and son, with the interests of the realm which had been intrusted to him. His speech was loudly cheered, and the reception of his Majesty was a very enthusiastic one.

ITALY.

The Chamber of Deputies has adjourned until the 12th inst.

A Royal decree has been published ratifying the Finance Convention with Austria, voted by the Parliament. Another decree orders the inscription of Rentes on the great book of the public debt to the amount required by that Convention.

AUSTRO-HUNGARY.

The Lower House of the Austrian Reichsrath, after a long debate, has rejected a motion for the adjournment of the discussion of the bill referring to the recruiting contingent. The extreme Left strongly opposed the motion.

GERMANY.

In the sitting of the German Parliament on Thursday week the draught of the address, moved by Herr Bennington and supported by the most eminent members of all fractions, with the exception of the Catholic fraction, was agreed to by 243 against 63 votes. Six Polish members abstained from voting. The draught of the address proposed by the Catholic party was rejected, the Catholic members alone voting for it. The principal difference between the two addresses was that Herr Bennington's draught referred approvingly to the principle of non-intervention expressed in the Speech from the Throne, whilst the Catholic fraction proposed the intervention of Germany in favour of the Pope. On Saturday Prince Bismarck said the decision of the Emperor to abstain from all interference with the internal affairs of France could only be carried out as long as the interests of Germany remained unaffected. If intervention became necessary, it would be resorted to with regret, but with the same determination which had ensured the success of the war. The House discussed the Constitution of the Empire. Article I was agreed to. A motion of Herr Zelinski to exclude the Polish territories from the German Empire was rejected. At the close of the sitting Prince Bismarck recounted the bills which were to be brought forward; a bill on pensions, a supplementary budget for 1871, a bill for the union of Alsace and Lorraine with the German Empire, and, finally, one for the issue of a lottery loan. In Monday's sitting the reply of the Emperor to the congratulatory address of the House was read. His Majesty describes the present state of France as a consequence of continued revolutions. With regard to the territory newly acquired by Germany, he says that patience and indulgence will be required in order to revive German sentiment there. The Parliament sat for the last time before Easter on Wednesday, after which the House adjourned until the 12th inst.

Prince Bismarck has received an autograph letter from the King of Bavaria, accompanied by the star of the Order of Hubertus.

The Prussian Budget for the financial year 1870 will, it is said, show a surplus of about six million thalers.

SWEDEN.

The Queen Dowager of Sweden, in consequence of the decease of the Queen, has fallen ill, and is confined to her bed. The health of the King is improving.

RUSSIA.

By an Imperial ukase, the Emperor has conferred the title of Altesse upon Prince Gortschakoff and his heirs, in recognition of the glorious services rendered by the Prince to the country and of the ability with which the Black Sea question has been settled in a pacific manner and with dignity to Russia. Baron Brunnow is raised to the dignity of Count, and General Ignatieff receives the Alexander Newski order.

AMERICA.

The Senate, by 38 against 16 votes, has tabled Mr. Sumner's resolution condemning the administration for its belligerent intervention in the affairs of San Domingo.

CANADA.

The Dominion House of Commons has confirmed the result of the negotiations with British Columbia for the admission of the latter into the Dominion, including also the agreement as to the construction of a Pacific railway.

A telegram has been received at the Foreign Office from Mr. Wade, dated Pekin, March 16, reporting all quiet. Fifteen Chinamen have been beheaded within Chinese jurisdiction near Macao for the alleged murder of the captain and crew of an "emigrant" vessel conveying them from Macao to Peru.

Sir Samuel Baker has written to Consul Rogers with respect to the Nile expedition, which he says was in complete order on Dec. 1, when the first division of eight vessels started. There are in all fifty-nine vessels, 1000 bayonets, and ten pieces of artillery. The north wind was strong, the river full, and he had no fear of the impediments that were fatal last season—shallows. He mentions the death of Dr. Gedge, who became suddenly insane, and was sent to Khartoum; but after some weeks, during which he refused nourishment, he withered away and died almost a skeleton, insane to the last. Sir Samuel says he himself is always well, and Lady Baker is the strongest of the party.

By the West African mail we learn that intelligence had been received at Cape Coast Castle that the Ashantee army which invaded the eastern parts of the Protectorate had been entirely destroyed and its Generals killed. The Ashantees were caught in ambush, their army dispersed, and their commanders had either been killed in battle, captured and slain in cold blood, or had blown themselves up to prevent being taken alive by the enemy. The number of men the Ashantees are said to have lost was estimated at 20,000 killed in battle, besides numbers who had died from disease, starvation, and been taken prisoners. The King of Ashantee was sending to the eastern districts a new army, which will, it is said, number not less than 30,000.

ROYAL INSTITUTION LECTURES.

THE EQUILIBRIUM OF NUTRITION.

Professor M. Foster, in his eleventh and concluding lecture, on Tuesday week, after some remarks upon the slight value of gelatine as food, since it is not a proteid, commented on the great importance of the salts, more especially of the common salt, the salts of potash, and the phosphates, which are as necessary to animal as to vegetable life. He next considered the results of a number of experiments, set forth in tables, made with the view of ascertaining the proportions constituting the normal diet of a man—a most difficult problem. Moleschott's experiments on poor people in Germany give 20 per cent of proteids, 13 fats, 63 amyloids, and 4 salts; while human milk consists of 13 of proteids, 30 fats, 55 amyloids, and 2 salts. To keep in health we should always work, and the supply of food, and its nature, must be mainly regulated by experience, the chief thing to study being to avoid putting the system wrong. In very exhausting work we do not so much exhaust the muscles as the nervous system, and if we increase the proteids in our food we must take more exercise, otherwise we merely increase heat and waste, and do mischief, as is well known in training for athletic sports. The normal diet of a man ought also to be in proportion to his bulk and weight, the proteids of his food being in relation to the proteids of his body, and the rest of the food-stuffs in proportion. As the muscles form forty per cent of the whole body, and the brain is only two per cent, the change produced by mental work is small compared with that by muscular work, but it more readily deranges the system. The maintenance of the normal temperature of the body is effected chiefly by fat; but this must be so taken that it shall be duly oxidised. Too great heat is got rid of by insensible perspiration, and this is promoted by amyloids. Mere draughts of liquid dilute the blood for a time, and create sensible perspiration, but the heat soon returns. The Esquimaux eats fat to keep himself warm, while the Hindoo eats rice (amyloid) to keep himself cool. To fatten an animal the fats and amyloids in his diet must be increased in their proportion to the proteids, and his exercise cut off; while to get thin (as recommended by Mr. Banting) fats and amyloids should be avoided, and the quantity of proteids increased. This, however, cannot be done without risk of danger, since the system is put under high pressure, and extra work is thrown upon some organs. The Professor concluded by referring to the great difficulties in which the subject is involved, and by expressing a hope that means might be afforded by the nation for more profound scientific investigation.

THE ALKALINE METALS.

Professor Odling, in his eleventh and concluding lecture on the Chemical Discoveries of Davy, given on Thursday week, resumed his illustrations of the properties of potassium and sodium, the fruits of long-continued and profound researches which nearly cost their author his life. The extreme lightness of these metals was again referred to, especially as refuting the old notion that weight is an essential property of metals; and their oxidation in water was exhibited. When a piece of potassium or sodium was placed in water or on wet paper the metal seized on the oxygen of the water, and the hydrogen thus set free burst into flame, being ignited by the heat evolved by chemical action. Davy determined that 8 parts of oxygen combine with 42 parts of potassium and with 26 parts of sodium to form potash and soda. These results, obtained by him with much labour from small quantities of the material, nearly agree with those recognised at the present time, with all our chemical advantages. Professor Odling next adverted to the processes invented by Curaulau, Gay Lussac, Deville, and others for manufacturing these metals, which, as predicted by Davy, have been found of great value in the production of other metals, such as boron, silicon, magnesium, and aluminium. Sodium, much employed in the production of aluminium, is now about two shillings a pound. The interesting experiments which followed included the combinations of potassium or sodium with chlorine, iodine, sulphur, and sulphurous acid, and their decomposition of the oxide of carbon and the chloride of hydrogen. The Professor next alluded to Davy's attempted decomposition of the alkaline earths, lime, and baryta; and to the success of Berzelius in obtaining from them calcium and barium by employing mercury as an electrode. An amalgam of the metals was thus obtained, from which the mercury was readily driven off. These processes have been much improved by Bunsen and Matthiessen; and in 1855 Bunsen procured from certain minerals the metal lithium, the lightest non-gaseous substance in nature, very similar in its properties to potassium and sodium, and remarkable for the brilliant crimson flame produced by the combustion of its salts. Davy also endeavoured to procure a metal from the volatile alkali ammonia, in which Berzelius succeeded by the use of mercury, thus forming ammonia amalgam. Davy, however, obtained ammonia amalgam by the electrolysis of the solution of sal-ammoniac and by the action of sodium-amalgam on the same solution. In conclusion, Professor Odling expressed his regret that his limited time had prevented him from doing sufficient justice to a mere selection from the results of the indefatigable labour of a man of brilliant genius who lived only fifty years. Many beautiful specimens of the alkaline metals were laid on the table, and their properties exhibited in numerous experiments.

ORIGIN OF MYTHOLOGY.

Professor Max Müller, at the evening meeting on Friday, March 31, began his discourse by asking what interest the savage, repulsive, and absurd tales of early Greek mythology could possess for philosophers and scholars; yet they have engaged the minds of the most profound thinkers of ancient and modern times, including Descartes, Leibnitz, Locke, Hume, Kant, Schelling, and Hegel; and all seem to have looked upon mythology as something that required explanation—whether it be as a system of religion or a phase in the development of the human mind. According to some, mythology is history changed to fable; according to others, it is fable changed to history. Some discover in it moral philosophy enunciated in poetical language, and others see in it an imaginative representation of the great forms and forces of nature. The allegorical interpretations of the gods put forth by early Greek philosophers were considered by Socrates too arduous and unprofitable; yet he, too, frequently referred to the undercurrent of mythology; and Aristotle expressly says that the first principles of the world were handed down in the form of myths. Plato, in his Republic, severely censures Homer and Hesiod for their immoral lies respecting the gods, in stories not fit to be repeated. If the "Iliad" were really the Bible of the Greeks, such violent invectives would have been impossible. Yet Xenophanes, who denied the existence of the mythological deities, declared his belief in one God, and never suffered for his convictions; and Plato taught at Athens till his death, in high esteem. Greek mythology then was not religion, in our sense of the word—the Greek religion being national and traditional, while Christianity is an historical and, to a great extent, an individual religion. In Greece the stream of ancient wisdom and philosophy flowed parallel with

the stream of legend and poetry, and both were meant to support the religious cravings of the soul. The origin of mythology, the Professor maintained, must be sought in the study of the history of language, which is only a part of that of thought. Mythology is inevitable, and an inherent necessity of language; it exists in our own day, as well as in the time of Homer; and that of the Greeks is but a small segment of it. It is the power exercised by language upon thought in every sphere of mental activity—language not being limited by mere speech, but including gestures, signs, and pictures; thus the figure 3, a sign, is a part of language. Language reacts on thought, and in this reaction is the real solution of the riddle of mythology. This view was illustrated by several examples. The Greek word "psyche," originally breath, the symbol of life, eventually came to signify the immortal soul. From this idea came a conception of soul and body independent of each other, and spiritualistic and naturalistic systems of philosophy arose to attempt to remove a self-created difficulty. The spirits of the dead were also termed shades, as they are now by the Zulus, who say that a corpse has no shadow. Professor Müller then adverted to the magnificence of sunrise and sunset, and explained the process of thought by which, in early times, the sun, moon, and other natural forms, came to be regarded as living, personal, divine beings, and were consequently worshipped. After giving several illustrations of the intimate connection of language with mythology derived from Sanskrit, Greek, and Latin, especially referring to the early legends respecting the sun, such as that of Apollo and Daphne, and stating that they were not mere inventions, but had a meaning, he said that mythology fills a period in the history of Aryan thought half way between the period of language and that of literature; and the Finns and Lapps exhibit the same mythological tendencies as the ancient Greeks and Romans. The Professor concluded by protesting against the objections of Professor Blackie to the scientific method of interpreting ancient myths—the science of comparative mythology. The president, Sir Henry Holland, Bart., was in the chair.

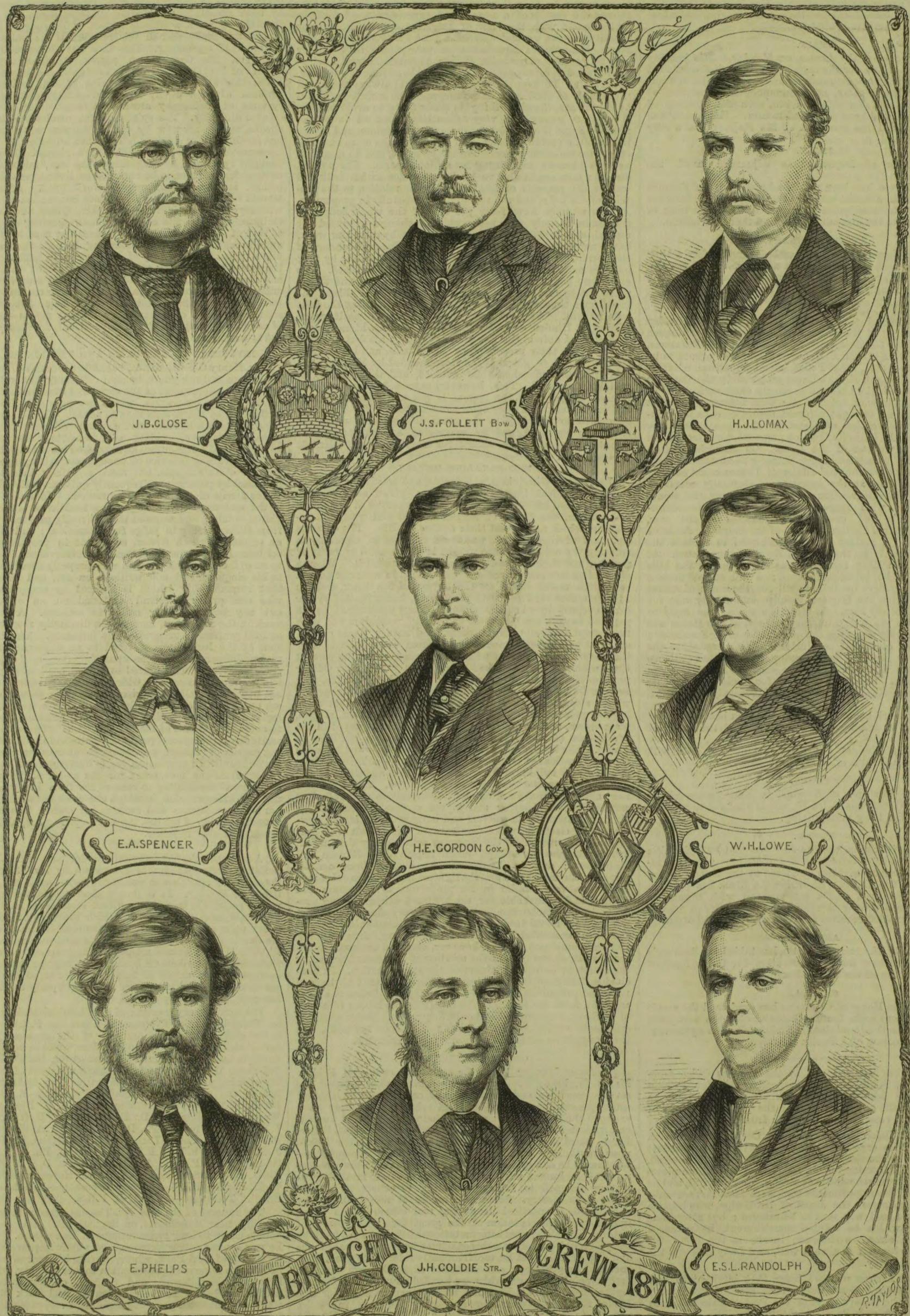
INFLUENCE OF THE PRESS AND FASHION ON ART.

Mr. Henry O'Neil, A.R.A., began his fourth and concluding lecture, on Saturday last, by again defining the spirit of an age as the embodiment of the social and intellectual tendencies of the living generation, which are only the fruit of the seeds sown by the powers then in action. Of all such powers, none at present, he said, have so much influence as the public press and fashion. After acknowledging the inestimable advantages of a free press, he expressed his strong disapproval of the prevailing practice of anonymous writing upon politics and all other subjects, but more especially in art-criticism, practised by persons too frequently quite unqualified to judge of the merits of the work under review. He denied the truth of the statement that anonymous art-criticism is merely individual opinion, and asserted that it really prevents thousands from endeavouring to judge for themselves; and M. Laprade, an eminent French writer, said that in proportion as art-criticism has progressed art itself has retrograded. In opposition to an evil custom, Mr. Ruskin very properly attaches his name to his eloquent and able writings on art, and thus assumes that responsibility which is shirked by anonymous critics, who can praise a friend or condemn an enemy, without any fear of being called to account. A notice of a work in the *Times* has, moreover, a distinctly monetary value, and all professions recognise this influence. The latter portion of the lecture was devoted to an exposure of the pernicious influence of fashion upon the progress of art; and, as examples, Mr. O'Neil referred to Wilson, the landscape-painter, and the musical composer, Glück, whose merits, long neglected, are now universally recognised, while their fashionable rivals are quite forgotten. He also stated that a well-known collector always bought pictures by Royal Academicians in order to avoid the ridicule of his friends. Thus between the tortuous and indirect influence of public criticism, and the direct but shifting caprice of fashion, the attainment of excellence has become very difficult. In conclusion, Mr. O'Neil expressed his thorough dissent from the movement for the so-called "emancipation of woman" as tending to remove her from her graceful and not inglorious mission, in which she promotes the happiness of her fellow-creatures and secures her own. The varied and boundless fields of art are, however, open to her, and here her presence is ever welcome.

A report to the Treasury on the increase of local and imperial taxation, which was drawn up by Mr. Goschen while the right hon. gentleman was at the Poor-Law Board, was published on Monday. It is shown that within a comparatively recent period the increase in direct local taxes has been from £8,000,000 to £16,000,000, of which the greater portion has fallen upon urban districts. Of the total increase, £2,000,000 are due to the poor rate, £5,000,000 to town improvements, and £1,000,000 to police and miscellaneous purposes. Mr. Goschen finds that the burdens on land are not heavier than they have been at various periods of this century, nor so heavy as they are in most foreign countries. House property in England is, however, very heavily taxed.

The anniversary meeting of the Chemical Society, was held on Thursday week—Professor Williamson, F.R.S., president, in the chair. After the delivery of the customary address, and of obituary notes, by the president, and the reading of the society's financial account by the treasurer, the election of the president, the officers, and the other members of council for the ensuing year was proceeded with. The following is the list of the gentlemen elected:—President—E. Frankland, D.C.L., F.R.S. Vice-Presidents—Sir B. C. Brodie, F.R.S.; Warren De la Rue, Ph. D., F.R.S.; A. W. Hofmann, D.C.L., F.R.S.; Lyon Playfair, Ph. D., C.B., F.R.S.; A. W. Williamson, Ph. D., F.R.S.; Col. P. Yorke, F.R.S.; H. Debus, Ph. D., F.R.S.; J. H. Gilbert, Ph. D., F.R.S.; H. M. Noad, Ph. D., F.R.S.; W. Odling, M.B., F.R.S.; T. Redwood, Ph. D.; J. Stenhouse, Ph. D., F.R.S. Secretaries—A. Vernon Harcourt, M.A., F.R.S.; W. H. Perkin, F.R.S. Foreign Secretary—H. Müller, Ph. D., F.R.S. Treasurer—F. A. Abel, F.R.S.

The funeral of the late Mr. Thomas Agnew took place at Worsley, near Manchester, on the 29th ult. His name has a double claim to long remembrance in Lancashire. For years he was a most active promoter of public improvements, and especially of Peel Park, where, during his year of mayoralty, he had the honour of presentation to her Majesty, who visited Liverpool, Manchester, and Salford, on her return from Scotland in 1851. To the museum at Peel Park Mr. Agnew was a constant and generous benefactor: he presented to it at least 120 pictures and 400 fine engravings. He has a second and still larger claim on the remembrance of Lancashire. For it is there that vast sums are expended upon art; but it was not until the exertions of Mr. Agnew had aided Lancastrian taste into higher regions than before, that its lavish patronage of art was at all what it is now, honourable alike to the art and to the patron. In the legitimate conduct of an intellectual business Mr. Agnew was enabled to do much for which the county will respect his memory. He had attained the good old age of seventy-six.





THE UNIVERSITIES BOAT-RACE.

from which it has learned that it has little to dread. If the blows of Versailles be followed up, the revolution may be stamped out; but if the rebels are left breathing-time, we fear that there may be dreadful work yet to be done. The last information is that in the hour of extreme need the First Prussian Army has orders to march upon Paris. This is the situation in France in the Passion Week of 1871.

THE COURT.

The Queen, accompanied by Prince Leopold and Princess Beatrice, arrived at Windsor Castle, at a quarter before six o'clock p.m. on Thursday week, from Buckingham Palace.

On the following day Princess Louise and the Marquis of Lorne visited her Majesty and remained to luncheon, and afterwards returned to London. The Judge-Advocate-General had an audience of her Majesty.

On Saturday last the Duke of Roxburghe, Countess Spencer, and the Bishop of Exeter arrived at the castle. The Queen's dinner party included the Duke and Duchess of Roxburghe, the Marchioness of Ely, Countess Spencer, the Bishop of Exeter, and Major-General Sir T. M. and the Hon. Lady Biddulph.

On Sunday the Queen, Prince Leopold, and Princess Beatrice, attended Divine service in the private chapel of the castle. The Bishop of Exeter officiated. Princess Louise and the Marquis of Lorne arrived at the castle. Her Majesty's dinner party included Princess Louise and the Marquis of Lorne, Prince Leopold, the Duke and Duchess of Roxburghe, and Countess Spencer.

On Monday the Queen, accompanied by Prince Leopold, went to Chisellhurst, and visited the Emperor Napoleon and the Empress Eugénie, at Camden House. Her Majesty travelled by special train from Windsor to Chisellhurst station, and drove thence to Camden House in an open carriage, drawn by four greys and attended by two outriders on greys, which had preceded the Queen from Windsor. Her Majesty's visit extended over half an hour, after which the Queen returned to Windsor Castle. Princess Louise and the Marquis of Lorne took leave of her Majesty upon their departure for the Continent. The Duke of Roxburghe, Countess Spencer, and the Bishop of Exeter left the castle.

On Tuesday Prince and Princess Christian of Schleswig-Holstein visited the Queen and remained to luncheon.

On Wednesday her Majesty, accompanied by Prince Leopold and Princess Beatrice, left the castle for Osborne House. The Court is expected to remain at the Isle of Wight about three weeks, and then return to Windsor Castle.

The Queen has presented to the parish church of Crathie a silver communion service, consisting of a flagon, four cups, and two salvers.

The Queen has appointed Victor A. F. M. Biddulph, Esq., to be Page of Honour to her Majesty, vice the Hon. Frederick John Bruce, resigned.

The Queen will hold a Drawingroom at Buckingham Palace on Tuesday, May 9.

The Prince of Wales will, by command of the Queen, hold Levées at St. James's Palace, on behalf of her Majesty, on Wednesday, April 26, and on Saturday, May 13.

The Queen's birthday will be kept on Saturday, May 20.

The Countess of Gainsborough has succeeded the Duchess of Roxburghe as Lady in Waiting to her Majesty; Colonel the Hon. A. Liddell has succeeded Major-General Sir Francis Seymour, C.B., as Groom in Waiting; and Lord Charles Fitzroy and Colonel H. Ponsonby have succeeded Colonel Du Plat and Colonel the Earl of Mountcharles as Equerries in Waiting.

Congratulatory addresses upon the marriage of Princess Louise and the Marquis of Lorne have been forwarded to the Queen from the principal towns of the United Kingdom. The Royal marriage was celebrated at Osborne, on the 24th ult., by a dinner and a dance.

THE PRINCE AND PRINCESS OF WALES.

The Prince of Wales was present at the 10th Hussars Steeplechase Meeting, yesterday week, at Southall. In the evening his Royal Highness dined with the Hon. Corps of Gentlemen at Arms at St. James's Palace. On Saturday the Duke of Genoa visited the Prince and Princess at Marlborough House. Princess Louise and the Marquis of Lorne and Prince Arthur dined with their Royal Highnesses at Marlborough House. The Royal party afterwards went to the Royal Italian Opera, Covent Garden. On Sunday the Prince and Princess attended Divine service. On Monday Princess Louise and the Marquis of Lorne and Prince Arthur lunched with their Royal Highnesses at Marlborough House. The Prince accompanied Princess Louise and the Marquis of Lorne to Charing-cross upon their departure for the Continent. The Duke of Cambridge visited the Prince and Princess at Marlborough House. The Prince had an interview with the United States General Sheridan, who was accompanied by the American Chargé-d'Affaires, General Forsyth, and Commodore Macdowell. On Tuesday the Prince and Princess, accompanied by Prince Albert Victor, Prince George, Princess Louise, Princess Victoria, and Princess Maude of Wales, left Marlborough House for Sandringham House.

PRINCESS LOUISE AND THE MARQUIS OF LORNE.

Princess Louise and the Marquis of Lorne left London on Monday for a Continental tour. Her Royal Highness and the Marquis travelled from Charing-cross by a special train to Dover. Miss Eborall, daughter of Mr. Eborall, general manager of the South-Eastern Railway, was introduced to the Princess by Lady Churchill at the Charing-cross station, and presented her Royal Highness with a bouquet of choice flowers. The Princess and the Marquis passed the night at the Lord Warden Hotel, and left the following morning for Ostend, crossing the Channel in the Maid of Kent. Her Royal Highness and the Marquis, after visiting Antwerp and Brussels, will make a tour in Italy.

Miss Amy Sedgwick having presented Princess Louise with a pair of doves on the occasion of her wedding, received from her Royal Highness a note in acknowledgment, and subsequently the Princess and her husband gave Miss Sedgwick an agreeable surprise by paying her a visit.

Prince Christian of Schleswig-Holstein returned to Frogmore on Monday from visiting the Duke of Rutland at Belvoir Castle.

The Duchess of Cambridge arrived at Cambridge Cottage, Kew, on Monday from Belvoir Castle.

His Excellency the German Ambassador and Countess Bernstorff and Countess Thérèse Bernstorff have left Prussia House for St. Leonards-on-Sea.

The Duke and Duchess of Wellington left Apsley House on Monday for Strathfieldsaye, Hampshire.

The Duke and Duchess of Northumberland have left Northumberland House for Albury Park, Surrey. Great rejoicings took place last week on the Northumberland estates, in honour of the christening of Lord Warkworth, the infant heir of Earl Percy. A banquet to 400 tenantry was given at Alnwick Castle. Earl Percy presided.

THE CHURCH.

PREFEMENTS AND APPOINTMENTS.

Aston, J. A., to Vicar of St. Luke's, Cheltenham.
Carew, Henry William; Curate of Compton Bassett, Wilts.
Cox, Thomas; Vicar of Aldringham-cum-Thorpe, Norfolk.
Day, Theodore H. C.; Vicar of Southwood, Norfolk.
Ffrench, W. S.; Curate of Clevedon.
Girdlestone, Francis Gurney; Rector of Landford, Wilts.
Handcock, W. F.; Vicar of St. Stephen's, South Kensington, London.
Hyde, John Thomas, Curate of Eggesford, Devon.
Isaac, Lloyd; Vicar of Liangammarch, Brecon.
Kirby, R. R.; Vicar of Chapel Allerton, near Leeds.
Knapp, Charles Tyrrell; Assistant Curate of St. Agnes, Cornwall.
Knight, Charles Rumsey; Rector of Merthyr Mawr, Glamorganshire.
MacColl, Malcolm; Rector of St. George's, Botolph-lane, London.
Roe, Henry Farwell; Rector of Revelstoke, Devon.
Schrader, G. J.; Rural Dean and Surrogate for the Southern Province of the island of Ceylon.
Tanner, John Vowler; Curate of Chawleigh, Devon.
Tracey, F. J.; Rector of St. Martin's, Chichester.
Turner, R. S.; Curate of St. Paul's, Marylebone.
Wilkins, A. D.; Vicar of Lullington, and Rector of Orchardleigh, near Frome Selwood.

The Bishop of Exeter has consecrated a new church at Otterton.

An Ecclesiastical Commissionership is vacant by the death of Mr. Howes, M.P. The salary is £1000 per annum.

Her Majesty has confirmed the sentence of deprivation pronounced by the Judicial Committee against Mr. Voysey, and the Order in Council having just been returned to the Appeal Registry, the judgment will be forthwith carried out, as well as an order for the payment of costs.

The church of Fornham, St. Martin, has been reopened, by the Archdeacon of Sudbury, after a thorough restoration from designs by Mr. Arthur Blomfield. The Rev. M. H. Begbie, the Rector, has defrayed the expense of restoring the church; and Mrs. Hogg, the widow of the late Rector, has been the principal contributor to the general work.

The *Guardian* announces that the Rev. J. H. Leach, on quitting the Vicarage of Gillingham, Chatham, has been presented with a silver teapot and other articles from the parishioners; from the choir, an album with cartes of all the members, beautifully executed by one of their number; and a handsome inkstand and appendages, from the school; and that the Rev. J. Bellot Littler, Vicar of Llantrissant, Monmouthshire, has received a Bible and a silver inkstand from his late parishioners of Brassington, Derbyshire.

THE UNIVERSITIES AND PUBLIC SCHOOLS.

At Oxford the examiners for the Denyer and Johnson Theological Scholarships have elected the Rev. C. L. Dundas, B.A., late scholar of Brasenose; Mr. W. E. Matthew, B.A., scholar of St. John's; and the Rev. E. G. Hodgson, B.A., Exeter.

We learn from Cambridge that the Chancellor's gold medals for classical studies have been awarded as follow:—1. John George Fawcett, Trinity College; 2, Richard Appleton, Trinity College. The Adams (Astronomical) Prize has been adjudged to Isaac Todhunter, M.A., St. John's College.

Eton College closed yesterday week for the Easter vacation. The following are the results of the Newcastle examination:—Tilley, K.S., Scholar; Macaulay, K.S., Medallist. Select—Denton, Wintle, Lacaita, Weldon, Corrie, Radcliffe, Selwyn, Heathcote, Hobhouse, Paul, Badfour, and Donkin. The number of students is as follows:—Sixth form, 20; fifth form, upper division, 202; middle division, 74; lower division, 177; remove, 240; fourth form, 115; third form, 40: total, 868.

The annual report of University College, London, has been published, and shows a highly satisfactory condition of affairs. The most important event recorded is the establishment of a new faculty (science), which, says the report, "marks a distinct stage in the development of the college."

The Senior Mathematical Mastership in King's College School, London, has been conferred upon the Rev. P. W. Sparling, Assistant Master of the school.

METROPOLITAN NEWS.

The Select Committee of the House of Commons has passed the bill of the Euston, St. Pancras, and Charing-Cross Railway Company, after a careful examination, extending over six days.

Most of the metropolitan volunteer corps marched out last Saturday to the various parks for drill and blank-cartridge firing with their new weapon, the snider, in preparation for the forthcoming Easter-Monday review.

Lord Charles Bruce, M.P., will preside at the anniversary festival of the Royal Hospital for Diseases of the Chest, City-road, to be held in May; and Mr. S. C. Hadley will preside at the anniversary festival of the Coffee and Eating House Keepers' Benevolent Association, which will be held, on May 15, at the London Tavern.

Mr. George Lyall was, on Tuesday, elected without opposition as Governor of the Bank of England for the ensuing year, and Mr. B. G. Greene was chosen Deputy Governor. Mr. R. W. Crawford, M.P., received a vote of thanks for his services during the term of his office. He has also been presented by the officers and clerks with a picture of the "Bank Parlour," painted by Mr. J. D. Wingfield.

The Metropolitan Board of Works has ordered that Queen-street, Grosvenor-row, and Queen's-road East be re-named Pimlico-road; that John-street, Cambridge-heath, be re-named Vyner-street; and New-road, Hammersmith, re-named Goldhawk-street; that the houses in Great Winchester-street Buildings, City, and in other streets, be re-numbered. The board has adopted a resolution instructing a committee to take the necessary measures for maintaining the clauses in the bill now before Parliament which constitutes the board the authority for regulating the water supply of London. The bill is opposed by the Corporation.

At a meeting of the Mansion House Relief Fund, yesterday week, it was reported that the fund amounted to £125,416, of which there was an available balance of £8860. A grant of £500 was made for the relief of the distress at Mettray to M. de Metz, who personally applied to the committee. A letter was read from Mr. W. H. Bullock, stating that he had contributed out of the *Daily News* fund 20,000*l.* to purchase barley, oats, peas, and beans in the Brussels market. He had, he said, a balance in hand of £100. He had intended to spend the 20,000*l.* in replacing one hundred looms belonging to the burnt-out weavers of Bazeilles, but, the purchase of seeds admitting of no delay, he had been obliged to relinquish that intention. The committee voted Mr. Bullock 20,000*l.* to supply the looms, and it was stated that Lord Vernon's committee had contributed £500 to that gentleman for the purchase of seeds. A discussion took place as to the advisability of sending a delegate to the Paris committee, to assist them in the distribution of £28,000 with which they had been intrusted, and it was incidentally stated that the committee had heard nothing whatever of the doings of their branch in Paris for the last three weeks. Eventually it was decided to communicate with the Archbishop of Paris on the subject.

"NOTHING IN THE PAPERS."

Hanc Veniam petimusque damusque vicissim. The second word meaning License, we have a good motto for Mr. Bruce's great bill, in which, according to his critics, he has made concessions in exchange for concessions. Those who are really interested in this very important subject will doubtless examine the machinery for themselves. But for the benefit of those who will certainly not toil through all that mass of print—or even through the summaries, and who yet may like to know something about the matter, I will just say that tavern licenses are to be put up to sale; that the highest bidder is to be the purchaser, but not unless he be shown to be a person of good moral conduct. The country is to be divided into districts, and the local magistrates are to decide how many public-houses are wanted in each district. If they allow too many, the ratepayers have a veto. Present licenses have a kind of vested interest for ten years, but subject to stringent conditions. All public-houses in London are to close at midnight, at eleven in country towns, at ten in rural districts, and none may open before seven in the morning—an arrangement intended to repress early tippling by artisans. On Sundays houses are to be open from one to three and from seven to nine. There are severe regulations affecting publicans who permit intoxication in their houses, and any tipsy person is to be fined £1, and more if he be in charge of horses, or there be other special reason why he should keep sober. There is also legislation against adulteration of liquor, and inspectors will make sudden visits and seize samples. *Bref*, Mr. Bruce hopes greatly to diminish the number of public-houses; but he wisely added that it was only by means of education and improved moral tone that drunkenness among the poor would come to be regarded as it is amongst their social superiors.

The Blue Ribbon of the River is again Light Blue. Science prevailed over Strength, and Cambridge defeated Oxford. We were all told that two lengths was the distance between the boats at the finish, but the judge reduced that space by one half. There must be a winner and a loser; but to anybody but a racing person this number of feet in all those miles does not seem much, and one can well understand the fraternisation of the crews afterwards. And now that the legitimate excitement caused by this great race (the one which everybody knows is the honestest race of the year, for the class that can be tampered with has no chance of part or lot in the matter) is over, let us hope that the authorities who will have to settle the arrangements for the next race will be mindful of the eccentricities of Father Thames, and provide against them. It was hard to be debarred the sight of the contest, but for thousands of us it was manifestly impossible to attend at the hour chosen. Men of business cannot have their morning disturbed by the process prescribed on this last occasion. "Get an almanack, get an almanack, and find out moonshine," says the prompt comedian in the "Midsummer Night's Dream." If the rowing gentlemen would get an almanack and adjust their race for an hour like that at which the Derby is run, they would confer a signal favour on some thousands of their most cordial admirers. If I am told in reply that "Tis pity that we can't control the waves" (as Mr. Zouch Troughton wrote in a very good play for Macready), I reply that I cannot enter into details, neither can I get up at six in the morning.

I read from Japan that "one of the Mikado's councillors has been assassinated, but the act was purely a political one." A trifle, then, hardly worth telegraphing, unless one were told at the same time what reward had been conferred upon an assassin who, according to "our new heraldry," is rather a martyr to his convictions than a criminal. We are not informed whether the impassioned patriot blew in the side of his victim's house with gunpowder, or whether the destroyer, with a gang of some other impassioned souls, made a street attack; one likes to hear interesting details of even misguided heroism. We shall wait to learn what marks of honour have been bestowed, and that the ship in which he may have been sent away to China, in deference to the prejudices of survivors, has been made as comfortable as possible. That his pockets were filled with gold (*kuban* is the Japanese sovereign) is matter of course, as also that he was provided with small change in *ichibus*, to throw to the crowds that would receive him on landing. I should also rejoice to know that the Mandarins at the port had waited on him with an address.

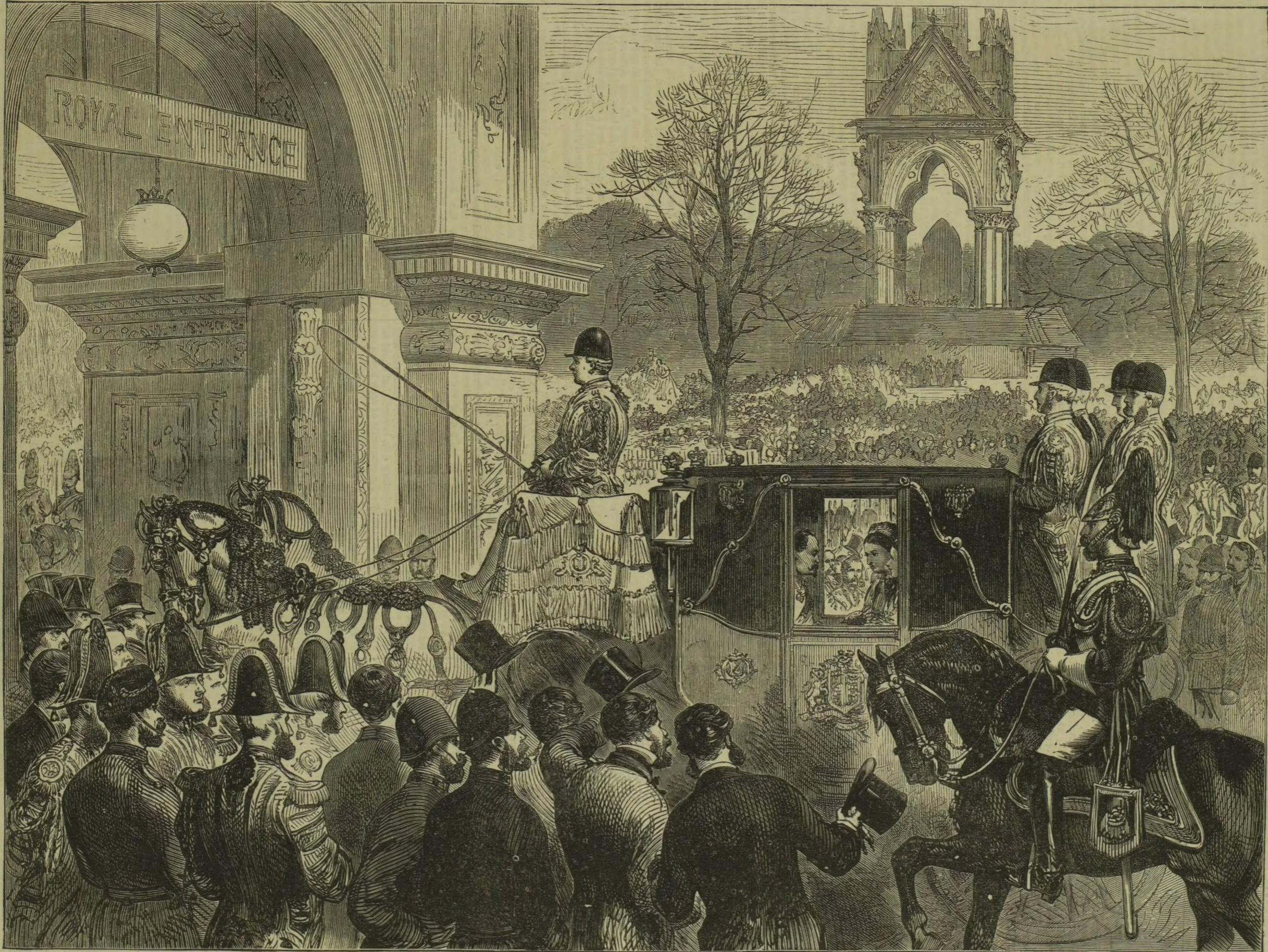
Archbishop Manning has addressed a severe rebuke to British Catholics. It appears that not above half of them comply with the rule of the Church that they should come to confession in Lent, though this is the minimum demand upon their piety. However, in a truly charitable spirit, the good Archbishop extends the period within which confession may be made, and he calls upon the faithful to take advantage of this indulgence. These are facts which have an interest of their own, and may be noted by persons who believe that the Catholic religion is laying a great hold upon us insulars. It may be as safe to assume that it sits very lightly upon thousands who profess it, when they deliberately disobey a mandate which they are thought to believe affects their spiritual welfare. Let me gladly note that the Archbishop gave wise and earnest counsel to Irish Catholics to assist in carrying out the Census, which it seems is one of the things unfortunate enough to be malevolently regarded by "an affectionate people." Why they should hate it I know not; for they cannot be supposed capable of perceiving that it shows what a very small part of the population under the British sceptre is allowed to give more trouble than all the other millions put together.

The Bishop of Peterborough is not one of those prelates who are content to take things as they are. Nor will he allow his talent of splendid eloquence to be hidden in a napkin. His Lordship has made a good use of Norwich Cathedral this Lent. Into its nave (not, however, until it had been duly warmed and lighted) an enormous congregation of men—the number attending is given at 3000—were assembled to hear a series of lectures in opposition to the modern forms of *Atheism*. "Young Bishops should write," said George III., and it was not among the more foolish of his Majesty's dicta. He would have certainly said that they should preach, and not merely "occasional" or charity sermons, but discourses in behalf of the faith which they undertake to guard. Dr. Magee's orations must have produced a marked effect, for though twice as long as ordinary sermons ought to be, they were listened to with deep attention to the end. They are to be published.

The Eighth Census was taken on Sunday, April 2. When the Enumerators begin to tell their experiences, I dare say that we shall have some amusing things. But I should like to ask how the authorities take the census of non-incarcerated scoundrels. The returns affect accuracy in extreme; for instance, last time the British population was 29,334,783. We do not say about the last eight what Mr. Mantalini said about the halfpenny; indeed, that would be wrong. But how do we get at Tiger Bay and other places dangerous even to policemen?



THE FIRST OF APRIL: A SKETCH AT THE BOAT-RACE



OPENING OF THE ROYAL ALBERT HALL: ARRIVAL OF THE QUEEN.

OPENING OF THE ROYAL ALBERT HALL.

The Royal Albert Hall of Arts and Sciences, Kensington-gore, was opened by her Majesty the Queen on Wednesday week, as stated in our last publication. An account of the proceedings must now be given with the Illustrations presented in this Number. The building, of which an exterior and an interior view, as designed at that time, appeared in our Journal on May 18 and May 25, 1867, has been nearly four years in construction. Its foundation-stone was laid by the Queen May 20, 1867. The project of its erection was actually set on foot, in 1865, by a committee of which his Royal Highness the Prince of Wales was president, meeting at Marlborough House. But the idea had been entertained in 1862, as an accompaniment to the personal Memorial of the late Prince Consort, a statue enshrined beneath an architectural Gothic cross, with supporting groups of sculpture, which will stand in Hyde Park directly opposite the hall. It was remembered that the lamented Prince had wished to see this site, north of the Horticultural Society's Gardens, as well as the space to the south of those gardens, where the Exhibition of 1862 was held, and grounds of the South Kensington Museum, on the east side, occupied by several great public edifices devoted to scientific and artistic culture. In 1858, replying to an address from the Horticultural Society, his Royal Highness spoke of its garden at Kensington, and then observed, "We may hope that it will, at no distant day, form the inner court of a vast quadrangle of public buildings, rendered easily accessible by the broad roads which will surround them—buildings where science and art may find space for development, with that air and light which are elsewhere wellnigh banished from this overgrown metropolis." As the Queen said, in her reply to an address from her son, when she laid the first stone, nearly four years ago, "I have been sustained by the thought that I should assist by my presence in promoting the accomplishment of his great designs to whose memory the gratitude and affection of the country are now rearing a noble monument, which I trust may yet look down on such a centre of institutions for the promotion of art and science as it was his fond hope to establish here. It is my wish that this hall should bear his name to whom it will have owed its existence, and be called 'The Royal Albert Hall of Arts and Sciences.'"

In the prospectus issued in December, 1865, the provisional committee was named, as follows:—The Prince of Wales, chairman; the Duke of Edinburgh, the Earl of Derby, Earl Granville, Lieutenant-General the Hon. C. Grey; the Right Hon. H. A. Bruce, M.P.; the Right Hon. R. Lowe, M.P.; Mr. Thomas Baring, M.P.; Mr. Edgar A. Bowring, C.B.; Mr. Henry Cole, C.B.; Mr. John Fowler, and Mr. Henry Thring. The Royal Commissioners for the Exhibition of 1851 offered to grant a site for the hall, and to guarantee a sum, not exceeding £50,000, towards the cost of its erection. The conditions were that such an amount should be subscribed, before the 1st of May, 1867, as would be sufficient to ensure the completion of the building and provide for every contingent expense. Large subscriptions were obtained; and in July, 1866, a proposal was made by Messrs. Lucas which enabled the committee at once to take all the preliminary steps required for proceeding with the work. Lieutenant-Colonel Scott, R.E., on behalf of the provisional committee, prepared plans of the hall on the designs approved by Messrs. James Fergusson, John Fowler, John Hawkshaw, Richard Redgrave, R.A., Sir W. Tite, M.P., and Sir M. D. Wyatt, as a committee of advice. The surveyors appointed by the Commissioners of 1851 certified that the building could be completed, externally and internally, including the fittings and every expense connected with it, for the sum of £199,748. The provisional committee accepted the proposal of the Messrs. Lucas to subscribe for sittings to the amount of £38,000, and to contract for completing the hall at ordinary trade prices. A Royal Charter of Incorporation was granted, by the terms of which the hall will be available for the following objects:—*a*, Congresses, both national and international, for purposes of science and art; *b*, performances of music, both choral and instrumental, including performances on the organ, similar to those now given in various large provincial towns, such as Liverpool and Birmingham; *c*, the distribution of prizes by public bodies and societies; *d*, conversazioni of societies established for the promotion of science and art; *e*, agricultural and horticultural exhibitions; *f*, national and international exhibitions of works of art and industry, including industrial exhibitions by the working classes similar to those recently held successfully in various parts of London; *g*, exhibitions of pictures, sculpture, and other objects of artistic or scientific interest; and, *h*, other purposes connected with the advancement of science and art.

The design for the building is by Lieutenant-Colonel Scott, R.E., assisted by Mr. G. Townroe, artist. It is based on ideas originated by the late Captain Fowke, R.E. The plan of it is elliptical, and its general form has some resemblance to that of the Colosseum at Rome, with the addition of an iron and glass roof. The building has three concentric circuits of walls, one inside another. From basement to roof it has double walls, the interior and exterior main walls being 20 ft. apart. Between these two walls, for half way up the height of the building, is a third, 9 ft. distant from the interior wall. Thus between the outer and middle wall there is on all floors a passage 20 ft. wide round the whole; while between the middle and interior walls there is another continuous passage round, 9 ft. wide. These walls are models of architectural strength. The roof, which rests upon the inner wall, is a huge skylight, the framework resembling the ribs of a gigantic outspread umbrella. The size of the whole building is about one fourth that of the vast Roman amphitheatre; but it is better to state the exact dimensions in figures. The long diameter of the outer wall is 272 ft., the short 238, the length between the porches 338 ft., the length of the ellipse 332, and the height 135 ft. to the spring of the roof, but to the top of the lantern, which surmounts the roof, it is about 150 ft. The span of the roof is 219 ft. 4 in. by 185 ft. 4 in. The basement arena, which is 15 ft. below the level of the Kensington roadway, has been excavated in the gravel and blue clay, and laid with nearly 2000 tons of concrete. It is calculated that the whole building has taken above 6,000,000 bricks. It consists of several tiers or stories. First, the basement, with organ chamber and apparatus below; then the ground floor, level with the arena, serving as an entrance to the amphitheatre seats; then the first tier of boxes, forty-four in number; above these, the second or upper tier of boxes, eighty-eight in number; above these, again, what is called the balcony, with sloping seats in tiers; and above the balcony, what is intended to be a picture-gallery, 20 ft. wide and 800 ft. in circuit, with arches open to the interior of the building. From the top of this gallery rises the roof, of light wrought-iron work, supported by strong girders, and meeting in an open lantern in the centre. The material of the walls is red Fareham brick, with decorations and facings of buff or yellowish-white terra-cotta from Staffordshire. The exterior elevation begins with a base of terra-cotta, 13 ft. high. The square windows, in three tiers, are surmounted with architraves

and key-stones, handsomely adorned with the Royal monogram, crowns, and other devices; and the base moulding between the lower tier of windows is decorated with shield-shaped panels charged with heraldic emblems and monograms. At the northern side of the building, facing Hyde Park and Kensington Gardens, is the Royal entrance; a porch, of bold dimensions, nearly 50 ft. in height, pierced with arches, 18 ft. in span, for carriages to drive through under cover. The porch is adorned with two magnificent niches, in which will stand statues of her Majesty and the late Prince Consort.

In the terra-cotta decorations the aim has been to employ the material rather as brick than as an imitation of stone. The modelling was executed by Messrs. Townroe and Gamble, and the terra-cotta was manufactured by Messrs. Gibbs and Canning, of Tamworth. The most interesting feature of exterior decoration is a mosaic frieze, 7 ft. high, running round the entire circuit of the building, and embodying a classical series of groups, allegorical of the useful arts and fine arts, from designs by members of the Royal Academy, executed by female students of the Art School at South Kensington, in tesserae of terra-cotta, forming a belt of mosaic work 6 ft. 6 in. wide and more than 800 ft. long, which may be called a great work. The drawings of the artists were first enlarged by photography; the mosaic work was put together, at the Kensington Museum, by the lady students of the Arts Schools; and the slabs thus produced were fixed in Portland cement to the wall. From an interesting description of the process, given by Mr. Gilbert Redgrave, we find that the total area of the frieze is 5200 square feet; it occupied a staff of ten operators during the greater part of two years; the cost of the designs was £782, and of their enlargement, £200; the material and manufacture cost £3444. Mr. Poynter's composition over the northern porch represents the nations displaying their choicest productions to Britannia. One of Mr. Pickersgill's contributions has for its subject "Music, Sculpture, and Painting"; another, "The Infancy of the Arts and Sciences"; a third, "Pottery and Glassmaking." One of the subjects chosen by Mr. Armitage is "Princes, Art Patrons, and Artists"; another, over the eastern porch, "A group of Philosophers, Sages, and Students." Mr. Yeames depicts workers in stone, wood, and brick, and architecture. Mr. Marks has treated Agriculture, Horticulture, Surveying, Astronomy, and Navigation; Mr. Horsley, Engineering; and Mr. Armstead, Mechanics.

There are four great main entrances to the hall—three from the Kensington-road and one from the conservatory of the Horticultural Gardens. Those facing the road are highly-ornamental structures, with small lecture-rooms above them and wide and lofty porticos beneath. There are separate entrances for stalls, amphitheatre, balcony, and gallery. Up to the latter there is a flight of steps, but for those who do not choose this mode of ascent there are hydraulic lifts which take twenty visitors at a time to any tier in the building; and these are likely to be often preferred. Instead of a southern porch, a connection has been formed here with the conservatory of the Horticultural Society. One enters here upon the level of the gallery, which at times may be decorated with flowers, whose gorgeous blooms and luscious perfumes will give a sudden and startling contrast to the crowded, heated hall. Two flights of steps lead down to the conservatory; and, further, one can pass by a glazed arcade into the Exhibition of 1871, when it shall be opened, so that there is direct and easy access, under cover, between the three buildings. To each of the three porches already mentioned are three entrances. In other parts of the building there are twelve entrances, besides that from the Horticultural Gardens. One of the great merits in the building is the easy and convenient access to all parts of it. No fewer than twenty-two staircases communicate with the outside, and for each level there is a different staircase; so that the stream of people going in or out does not mix or come to an inconvenient throng.

A single glance will show the arrangement of the interior. Imagine, within an outer shell of staircases, corridors, refreshment and retiring rooms, a vast hall, in shape a graceful oval, of which the southern end is all but filled by the organ and an orchestra rising up in tiers of seats. Fronting this orchestra is the auditorium, of horseshoe form, composed of the arena, a level space; the amphitheatre, or stalls, sloping upwards towards the boxes; three tiers of boxes; above them the balcony; and lastly, above it, what is called the picture-gallery. This gallery is not within the proper limits of the ellipse forming the interior, but is built over the staircases and corridors which form an outer zone to the portions of the auditorium below. It runs, therefore, round the whole of the interior, and the thirty Italian arches, with their scagliola pillars, through which the body of the hall is seen, are its great ornament. The boxes and balcony project from the wall into the ellipse, each tier projecting 3 ft. beyond that above it. Such an arrangement enables the occupants of each tier to see without much difficulty and be seen by those above them. One of the most remarkable features of the hall is the perfect view of the interior and all within it which can be had from any point. The arena 102 ft. long by 68 ft. wide, is covered with movable chairs for about 1000 persons. The amphitheatre stalls hold 1366; the boxes, 1100; the balcony, said to be the best place for hearing, holds 1800 people; and the picture-gallery, which will be generally used as a promenade, will contain 2000 persons. On the opening day it was fitted with seats for only 350 visitors. On a level with this gallery is an outer balcony, which runs entirely round the exterior of the building. From this balcony, more than 90 ft. above the road, a magnificent view is to be gained over the west of London, the parks and houses lying beneath the spectator. Visitors will be allowed to walk, and, it is said, gentlemen to smoke, on this balcony.

A very conspicuous object in the interior of the hall is the mighty organ, the finest in the world, built by Mr. H. Willis, who constructed that in St. George's Hall, Liverpool. It is 60 ft. wide and 70 ft. high, standing in the centre of the orchestra, and, with its gleaming metal pipes, the largest of which, above 40 ft. long, weigh nearly a ton each, catches the eye at once. This musical instrument is of unequalled powers, having five claviers, four manuals, extending from C to C in altissimo, and one pedal from CCC to G. The pedal organ consists of 21 stops; the first manual clavier, or choir organ, including the echo organ, comprises 20 stops, all the pipes in which are of metal. The second clavier, or great organ, contains 25 stops, only two of which have wooden pipes in the bass notes. The third clavier, or swell organ, comprises 25 stops, and all these are, with the exception of two stops of the basses, of metal. The fourth clavier, or solo organ, has 20 stops, making in all 111 stops; then there are fourteen couples and thirty-two combinations. The total number of pipes is close upon 9000, and these range from 30 in. in diameter to the size of the smallest straw, and from 40 ft. in length down to 6 in. The motive power for this wonderful instrument is obtained from two steam-engines, adjoining the bellows-chamber, one of 13-horse power, the other of 8-horse, manufactured by Messrs. J. Penn and Son, engineers of Greenwich.

The proceedings of the opening day began at half-past twelve o'clock, when the Queen entered; but the assembly began to fill the hall at half-past ten. About 8000 ladies

and gentlemen were present. The Royal chair, gilt, and with bright crimson damask fittings, stood on a dais, spread with a dark red carpet, in front of the orchestra; high overhead was a canopy of purple velvet, with gold fringes and tassels; other chairs were placed on the dais for the Royal family, and for the persons who were to take part in the ceremony, one of whom was the Bishop of London, in his robes and lawn sleeves. The Lord Mayor, Sheriffs, Aldermen, and other members and officers of the City Corporation, in their robes of office, sat in the arena, with the Mayors of many provincial towns. Scarlet and ermine and gold chains were here displayed. Mr. Gladstone, the Lord Chancellor, in Court dress; and several Cabinet Ministers, in the Windsor uniform, were in a box on the grand tier upon the left side of the hall looking towards the orchestra. The Duke and Duchess of Argyll sat in an adjoining box. The Duke of Cambridge, with Prince and Princess Teck, sat in the box jointly subscribed for by the Duke of Edinburgh and the Duke of Cambridge, next to that of the Prince of Wales. These gentlemen were in uniform. Several foreign Ambassadors and other members of the Diplomatic Body were present, wearing splendid uniforms and decorations. The four Burmese gentlemen on a mission to this country were conspicuous, in their amber robes and white turbans, in one of the boxes. In the appearance of the general company, except for some military or deputy lieutenants' uniforms, the men showed to less advantage than might have been desired, many of them being in plain walking dress or wrapped in overcoats; but of the ladies a fair proportion wore brightly-coloured opera-cloaks or shawls, which had a gay effect. The glass roof of the hall was veiled with a half-transparent expanse of stencilled calico. The orchestra was occupied by the vocal and instrumental performers, with a chorus from the Sacred Harmonic Society, numbering altogether 1100, under the direction of Sir Michael Costa. Along the middle of the arena, from the appointed Queen's entrance, beneath the Royal box, to the dais or platform in front of the orchestra, was a slightly raised stage, covered with crimson cloth, for her Majesty to walk upon. The Yeoman of the Royal Guard, in their Tudor uniform of scarlet and gold lace, their quaint frills, black velvet caps adorned with ribbons, and mediæval halberds, kept this path clear. The band of the Grenadier Guards, stationed in the upper part of the building, played during the two hours of waiting.

The Prince of Wales, having to receive the Queen at the Hall, as President of the Committee, arrived some time before her Majesty. He wore the uniform of the 10th Hussars. The Queen, with her other sons and daughters and the rest of the Royal family in London, came from Buckingham Palace in a procession of nine carriages, which were closed because of the cold weather, escorted by the 1st Life Guards. The road up Constitution Hill and along Hyde Park was kept by the Guards; the 10th Hussars were stationed at Albert Gate; a battery of Horse Artillery was drawn up at Knightsbridge Barracks, ready to fire a salute; and at the Royal Albert Hall was a guard of honour, formed of one company of the Cold-stream Guards, with the Queen's colours and the regimental band. Each of the Royal carriages were drawn by a pair of cream-coloured horses. The first six contained the ladies and gentlemen in attendance, of whom are to be noticed the Duchess of Sutherland, the Marquis of Ailesbury, the Duchess of Roxburgh, the Earl of Bessborough, the Earl of Lucan, Viscount Sydney, Lord Harris, Lady Churchill, the Lords and Equerries in Waiting, and Maids of Honour. In the seventh carriage were Prince Leopold, Prince Christian of Schleswig-Holstein, the Marquis of Lorne, and a gentleman in attendance. The eighth carriage bore Prince Arthur, Princess Helena (Princess Christian of Schleswig-Holstein), Princess Louise (Marchioness of Lorne), and Princess Beatrice. In the last carriage were the Queen and the Duke of Saxe Coburg and Gotha, brother to the late Prince Consort. Prince Edward of Saxe-Weimar came on horseback, having superintended the arrangement of the Guards.

When the Queen arrived at the grand entrance to the building, the organist, Dr. Best, played the National Anthem; and all the company rose from their seats. The Prince of Wales, with Earl Granville and Mr. Bruce, two of her Majesty's Ministers, and with the members of the Royal Albert Hall Committee, received the Queen at the door. They conducted her Majesty into the hall, and along the raised path to the dais. Leading the procession were Mr. Cole, C.B., the Secretary of State for the Home Department, and several officers of the Court. Then came the Duke of Saxe Coburg and Gotha, in his white Austrian uniform, across which was the blue ribbon of the Order of the Garter; and by his side the Princess of Wales, in a rich purple velvet dress, with a black lace veil to her bonnet. Prince Arthur, in the Rifle Brigade uniform, escorted his sister Princess Louise, whose face was wreathed in smiles, and whose white satin dress with fur trimmings, and the orange-blossoms in her bonnet, made her look, if possible, more charming than on her wedding day. Prince Leopold, who again wore the Highland dress with the kilt, and whose improved health everybody noticed, walked with his sister Princess Beatrice, who was attired in a green dress, and wore a plain white hat trimmed with the same colour. Then followed Princess Christian, in a black velvet dress, with black silk mantle and blue bonnet. The Marquis of Lorne wore a Highland dress. Accompanied by the Prince of Wales, wearing his Hussar uniform, came the Queen, who wore a black silk dress, black silk mantle trimmed with velvet, and a black bonnet in which were a few white flowers. The Queen took her place on the dais. Behind the Queen stood the lady in waiting, carrying a bouquet of white flowers; on her Majesty's right and left were the Princes of Wales, the Duke of Saxe Coburg and Gotha, Princess Christian, Princess Louise, Princess Beatrice, Prince Arthur, the Prince of Wales, the Bishop of London, the Provisional Committee, the officers of the Royal Household, and ladies in waiting.

The Queen looked in good health and happy, though touched with that emotion which she usually betrays upon occasions connected with the memory of her lamented husband. Having taken her place, with the other persons on the dais ranged in a semicircle on each hand, while the band played "God Save the Queen," her Majesty came forward and, by a slight gesture, invited the Prince of Wales to approach. His Royal Highness then read, in a clear and distinct voice, the address he had to offer, as President of the Provisional Committee. He spoke of "the successful completion of this hall, an important feature of a long-cherished design of my beloved father, for the general culture of your people, in whose improvement he was always deeply interested. Your Commissioners for the Exhibition of 1851, in further prosecution of my father's design for the encouragement of the arts and sciences, an object which he always had warmly at heart, are about to commence a series of annual international exhibitions, to the success of which this hall will greatly contribute by the facilities which it will afford for the display of objects and for the meeting of bodies interested in the industries which will form the subjects of successive exhibitions. The interest shown in the hall by the most eminent musicians and composers of Europe strengthens our belief that it will

largely conduce to the revival among all classes of the nation of a taste for the cultivation of music."

The Queen, who had listened to the address with the utmost interest and attention, took from the Home Secretary a written reply, and, speaking to the Prince of Wales in a voice clearly heard by those in the arena, said: "In handing you this answer I wish to express my great admiration of this beautiful hall, and my earnest wishes for its complete success." The reply said: "I cordially concur in the hope you have expressed that this hall, forming as it does part of a plan in which I must ever take a deep and personal interest, may largely and permanently contribute to the promotion among my people of the love of art, as well as to the success of the annual exhibitions, which will bring successively into instructive competition the choicest products of the industries of all nations. These objects could not fail to commend themselves at all times and all places to my sympathy and interest, fraught as they are with recollections of him to whose memory this hall is dedicated, and whose dearest aim was to inspire my people with a love of all that is good and noble, and, by closer knowledge and juster appreciation of each other, to cultivate a spirit of goodwill and concord among the inhabitants of all regions."

The Bishop of London, in the absence of the Archbishop of Canterbury, offered a special prayer. After a few words apart with her Majesty, the Prince of Wales said, "The Queen declares this hall to be now opened." There was immense cheering; the trumpets sounded, the choir sang the National Anthem, and the park guns boomed a distant salute. The Queen and the rest of the Royal visitors then proceeded to the Royal box, returning across the arena and thence up the staircase leading to the grand tier level. Her Majesty stopped more than once to bow her acknowledgments of the hearty cheering which now greeted her. In the Royal box, which consists of two boxes thrown into one, the central seat in the front row was occupied by her Majesty, on whose right sat the Princess of Wales, the Duke of Saxe-Coburg, and Princess Christian; while on her Majesty's left were the Prince of Wales, Princess Louise, and Princess Beatrice. Behind were Princes Arthur and Leopold, Prince Christian, and the Marquis of Lorne. The Royal party remained during the performance of Sir Michael Costa's cantata, retiring when it concluded. There were louder cheers on the Queen's departure than before, and Princess Louise bowed repeatedly in answer to several demonstrations in her favour. The Prince and Princess of Wales stayed in the Royal box until nearly the end of the miscellaneous concert; and they, too, on leaving the hall were loudly cheered.

MUSIC.

THE OPERA SEASON.

The opening of the Royal Italian Opera, on March 28, with "Lucia di Lammermoor," and Mdlle. Sessi as the heroine—as recorded last week—was followed by a performance of "La Traviata," on Thursday, with the same lady in the principal character (one of her best representations); and the week closed with Saturday's representation of Rossini's French *chef-d'œuvre* Italianised as "Guglielmo Tell," in which Madame Molan-Carvalho reappeared after an absence of several years. As in former seasons, this lady's singing of the music of the Princess Mathilde—especially the beautiful romance "Selva opaco," with its fine introductory recitative; and in the beautiful love duet with Arnoldo—displayed to advantage her light and flexible soprano voice, and French grace of style. Signor Moagini sang the music of Arnoldo with that rare command of the high chest notes which the part so especially requires, and of which perhaps no other stage tenor of the day is in such thorough possession. As on many former occasions, this artist's delivery of his share in the duet with Tell, "Dove vai," and of the trio with that character and Walther, "Allor che scorre," produced the marked impression which such exceptional displays must ever command: another instance of the same kind having been the heroic appeal of Arnoldo to his friends when inciting them to join him in rescuing Tell; "Corriam" ("Suivez moi"), with its gradually ascending passage mounting to the high C in the chest voice. If Signor Mongini's style occasionally alternates between the grand and the commonplace, there is a sufficient preponderance of the former quality to entitle him to large approbation, and to especial gratitude as rendering possible a hearing of Rossini's great work that is scarcely presentable in his absence. Another prominent feature in the performance now referred to was—as it has been before—the splendid realisation of Tell, vocally and histrionically, by M. Faure, who renders the character of equal importance with that of Arnoldo, instead of leaving it, as many other representatives have done, of subordinate interest. In the duet and trio already referred to, and in Tell's solo when enjoining fortitude in his son in the ordeal of the apple ordained by the tyrant Gessler, M. Faure manifested the highest qualities of a dramatic singer. The characters of Eduige and Jemmy, Tell's wife and son, were efficiently filled by Mdlles. Scalchi and Madigan. Signor Bagagiolo's splendid bass voice was valuable in the great trio already referred to, and in other instances. Mr. W. Morgan, as the fisherman, gave his song in the first scene better than it is usually rendered, and with a consequent unusual amount of applause. Signor Tagliafico looked and acted the tyrant Gessler better than he sang his music; and other subordinate characters were filled by Signor Fallar, Raguer, and Rossi.

Mr. Mapleson's programme of Her Majesty's Opera has already been summarised by us; and we shall have to speak a fortnight hence of the opening of the season of that establishment at Drury Lane Theatre on Saturday next.

The two extra performances announced by the Opéra Buffa Company at the Lyceum Theatre, after the nominal close of the season there, took place on Friday and Saturday last, the operas given having been Signor Petrella's "Le Precauzione" and Cimarosa's "Il Matrimonio Segreto." The work first named was produced with great success in Italy a few years since, and was brought out here the week before last, when it met with a favourable reception, that must be attributed more to the merits of several features in its performance than to any intrinsic value in the music. The slight plot of the piece is of a thoroughly farcical kind, and somewhat of the stale—turning on a masquerade adventure during the carnival at Venice; the stratagems by which three pairs of lovers defeat the vigilance of an irascible and watchful parent and guardian, and meet at the masquerade; with the blunderings of a stupid serving-man. The chief features in the performance were the capital buffo acting and singing of Signor Borella as Muzio, the sordid and irritable cus-todian of the ladies, and the farcical humour of Signor Ristori as Cola, the doltish marplot. One of the most effective pieces in the opera was the duet between these two, near the close of the opera, which had to be repeated, rather from the demonstrative energy of its performance than from any merits in the music. Another piece that called forth special applause was the trio for these characters and Pilade—one of the lovers—in which the latter attempts to pass himself off as the servant who has just arrived in search of his new situation. An air for Mimosa, one of the three ladies,

interpolated at the beginning of the third act, was extremely well sung by Mdlle. Veralli, and had to be repeated; other successful displays having been Mdlle. Colombo's florid vocalisation in the air of Albina, "Come si puo," and the following movement, "Non esprime," and the trio, "Benchè io fossi," for the two characters just named, with the efficient co-operation of Mdlle. Monari, as Romilla. The parts of the three lovers, Pilade, Oreste, and Count Bietola, have not much musical prominence; and found sufficient interpretation from Signori Fabbri, Torelli, and Fallar. Of the music it is quite unnecessary to speak in further detail—it might pass in a one-act farcical piece; but, when prolonged into three acts and claiming to rank as an opera, it gives rise to extreme wonder at its success in Italy, and its reproduction here

The concluding Monday Popular Concert of the season, this week, was appropriated, as usual, to the director's benefit, and was again rendered special by the co-operation of several eminent artists who are seldom heard in association, except on these occasions. Bach's noble concerto for three pianos was finely played by Madame Schumann, Mr. Charles Hallé, and Herr Pauer; each of whom also contributed a solo piece; as did Herr Joachim and Signor Piatti respectively on the violin and violoncello, Madame Norman-Néruda and Herr Joachim having performed an extract from one of Spohr's incomparable duets for violins. Haydn's quartet in F. (op. 77, No. 2) and vocal pieces, sung by Madame Joachim and Mr. Santley, accompanied by Sir J. Benedict, completed a concert of high interest.

Last week's concert of the Sacred Harmonic Society brought forward Haydn's "Seasons," after an interval of several years. The grace and melodious beauty of this work render it a more satisfactory illustration of its subject than the composer's "Creation," the theme of which demands higher and sublimer treatment than that of Haydn. The solos in the "Seasons" were generally well sung by Madame L. Sherrington, Mr. Cummings, and Mr. Santley. Some of the full effects, orchestral and choral—and, above all, of the organ—were much too strong for the character of the music. Sir M. Costa conducted, as usual.

The fourth of the oratorio concerts, last week, consisted of a repetition of Sir J. Benedict's "St. Peter," conducted by Mr. Barnby—the solos by Mesdames L. Sherrington and Patey, Mr. Sims Reeves, and Mr. Santley.

At last Saturday's Crystal Palace Concert M. Gounod conducted his second symphony (in E flat) and his new saltarello, recently composed for the Philharmonic Society. The symphony is, to our mind, less satisfactory, because more pretentious, than the composer's first piece of the kind, and is, moreover, largely reminiscent of Beethoven. A brilliant performance of Mendelssohn's first pianoforte concerto by Madame Arabella Goddard was the principal feature of the concert, which included vocal performances by Mdlle. Carola, Madame Haydée Abrek, and Mr. Vernon Rigby. Spohr's overture to "Jessonda" commenced, and Mr. Sullivan's "Overture di Ballo" terminated, the selection.

Herr Coenen has given two of his new series of three chamber concerts, the chief object of which is to introduce the music of contemporary German composers. Elaborate works by Volkmann, Rubinstein, and Brahms were the principal features in the programmes; and Herr Coenen's brilliant pianoforte-playing was associated with the clever performances of MM. Wiener (violin), Zerbini (viola), and Daubert (violoncello).

Madame Schumann has given two more recitals of pianoforte music, with a success fully equal to that of her previous series.

The musical performances at the opening of the International Exhibition, on May 1, will include a psalm by M. Gounod, a chorale to English words by Signor Pinsuti, a march by Dr. Ferdinand Hiller, and a cantata by Mr. Arthur Sullivan—all expressly composed for the occasion, and intended, according to the official announcement, to be "representative of France, Italy, Germany, and England."

The death of M. Fetis, at the age of eighty-six, is reported from Brussels. There and at Paris he enjoyed considerable reputation as a composer. Elsewhere he was chiefly known as an active theoretical and didactic writer on music, and more especially by his voluminous "Biographic Universelle des Musiciens"—the value of which is much deteriorated by its occasional incorrectness.

THE MAGAZINES.

The *Fortnightly Review* is, as usual, rich in valuable articles. That most likely to attract notice, both from the distinction of the writer and its bearing upon topics of current interest, is Miss Helen Taylor's paper on "Paris and France." While expressing a low opinion of the moral and intellectual status of the Paris populace, Miss Taylor appears to consider that the distinctive idea of the present movement, that of a federation among the large cities, might be worth trying as an experiment in politics. She does not explain whether the scheme contemplates the absolute disintegration of France into separate republics, and the consequent destruction of its influence as a European Power, or the retention of some sort of federal bond. In the latter case, allowing the wishes and interests of the provinces and the large towns to be so diverse as the project assumes, we are unable to understand how any unity of financial legislation or diplomatic action is to be obtained. The existence of federal tendencies in France is certainly a very curious phenomenon. Mr. Dicey, sketching the condition of Paris as it appeared to him immediately after the siege, admits that he saw nothing to prepare him for the present state of affairs. He still hopes that this will be transient, and considers that in this case Paris will be found to have entered upon a better era, mainly from the improvement of public morality. The name of Mr. Herbert Spencer is a sufficient guarantee for the value, and also for the abstruseness, of his speculations on morals. Mr. C. W. Hoskyns contributes a review of the present stage of the controversy between the advocates of small and large holdings in land; and Mr. Sidney Colvin an account of the arrangement of the Halicarnassian marbles at the British Museum. The Rev. F. W. Farrar offers an eloquent plea for Lord Lytton's "King Arthur," a poem which he considers unjustly neglected in comparison with the popular favour bestowed upon Mr. Morris. The preference accorded to the latter appears to us explained and vindicated by the fact that "King Arthur," with all its literary polish, is intensely artificial, writing for writing's sake, while Mr. Morris's strains come from the heart.

The solemnity of *Blackwood* is slightly relieved by a tolerable burlesque, in verse, of Darwin's "Descent of Man"; and more efficiently by the chapters of "Fair to See," which is very amusing this month, and not too local in its humour, although to some extent a medium for venting the soreness of Scotch

Conservatism at the irresistible preponderance of Radicals in the borough elections. Scotch notions on the currency and the condition of Scotch agricultural labourers are discussed in a style befitting the gravity of these topics. An indictment against Ministers goes over all the usual topics of party invective, and satisfactorily establishes that the nation is ruined without knowing it. It is chiefly remarkable for an admission that the late debate on the Army Bill was completely mismanaged by the Opposition.

Fraser has an excellent number. The question of peerages for life, which the antagonism between the two Houses on many important questions is likely to revive ere long, is argued with much ability. An essay on the population difficulty illustrates the question with the point to be expected from the author of "Ginx's Baby." Colonisation is the remedy proposed. A review of the life and character of the Emperor Julian, though not distinguished by originality of thought or brilliancy of style, is thoroughly sensible and to the purpose. Mr. Palgrave's sketch of the Arabian poet Omar affords a vivid picture of life and literature under the Caliphs of Bagdad. "Chinese Statesmen and State Papers" contains some curious illustrations of the antipathy of the Chinese to foreigners, especially missionaries. It is much to be feared that the present prostrate condition of France will lead to some serious complications in this quarter. Mr. Cardwell's scheme of army reform is very unfavourably criticised. Mr. Procter answers his own question, "What is the Corona?" by the suggestion that it may be "the shooting forth of liquid masses or streams of matter" from the sun's body.

The *Cornhill* affords little scope for comment this month. The paper on diamond mining at the Cape is the best. The second instalment of Mr. Field's reminiscences of Nathaniel Hawthorne contains little of interest except a sketch by Hawthorne of President Lincoln, suppressed from prudential motives at the time, but which certainly does honour both to Hawthorne's power of depicting individual peculiarities and to his insight into character. A paper on the Census is seasonable and entertaining.

Macmillan contains two articles on military matters by high authorities—Colonel Chesney and Sir G. Wolseley. Both agree that, in order to place the country in complete security, a much more extensive scheme than that of the Government will be necessary. Miss Cobbe's very interesting paper on the automatic action of the mind during sleep contains some specimens of poetry composed in dreams, one of which, singularly enough, is in French. It appears questionable whether this may not be a reminiscence of some actual poem. Another curious region of the border-land between physiology and psychology is illustrated in an account of Louise Lateau, an ecstatic devotee, now living in Belgium, whose hands, side, and forehead have received the imprint of the *stigmata*, and bleed regularly every Friday. It would be rash to deny the possibility of the phenomenon; but the fact of the investigators of its authenticity being, so far as appears, all Roman Catholic professors and ecclesiastics, is not calculated to dispel the suspicions which naturally suggest themselves. "Azamat Batuk" contributes some illustrations of English social follies under the title of "Views from Half Moon-street." We must confess to finding this gentleman's humour insipid when it is not unpalatable.

The curiosity excited by the announcement of an article on the late war, from the pen of Signor Mazzini, in the *Contemporary Review* will, perhaps, be somewhat disappointed by the essay itself. Its observations on the decline of France, the utter wantonness of the war on her part, the lack of an adequate spirit of national resistance to the invader, and the regret that Germany should in her turn "have overpassed the bounds of justice," sum up the conclusions of English public opinion with sufficient accuracy, though the style of expression is, of course, widely different. Dr. Beale's essay on "Physical Life-Theories" is mainly concerned with the questions of protoplasm and spontaneous generation. The problem of an effective representation of the colonies is discussed by the author of "Ginx's Baby," and the theological contributions are all interesting.

Mr. Macdonald's and Mrs. Craik's fictions in the *Saint Pauls Magazine* are the most generally attractive features of that periodical. We must also notice an excellent paper on Dante's "Paradise," and Mr. Procter's ingenious speculations on the possible character of Jupiter as a miniature sun, which derives support from the synchronism of disturbances in the two bodies.

The *Dark Blue*'s leading characteristic is, unfortunately rawness: its contents bear an impress of amateurishness imperfectly relieved by the two or three contributions of practised writers. Even these are not of the highest quality. Mr. Swinburne's poem is, indeed, distinguished even among his lyrics for melody and picturesqueness, but the merit of form is everything. There is more real feeling in Mr. Strachan's musical "Song of the Sirens," and Dr. Hayman's spirited lines on a bygone University boat-race. Mr. Morris's translation of the *Frithiof Saga* is masterly; but to have read one of these sagas is to have read them all. The rest of the contents are little more than creditable literary exercises.

Temple Bar is strong in miscellaneous papers, including an able review of the memoirs of Lord Brougham; the inevitable sketches of France before the war and after it; and a humorous piece of diablerie, entitled "A Page from the Book of Folly." "Ought We to Visit Her" is very clever, but not very pleasant.

The most important among the universally agreeable contents of the *Gentleman's Magazine* are Mr. Cowden Clarke's paper on Chaucer, the first of a series on English humorous literature; "The Clairvoyant," from the German of Zschokke; and a very pleasing sketch of Burns's habits of literary work. *Tinsley* and *Belgravia* are entertaining, without any very special features of interest. The recollections of the veteran Mr. Planché are a new and welcome feature in *London Society*, which, however, seems to be losing something of its sprightliness under the present management.

We have also to acknowledge the *New Monthly*, the *Dulcinéa University Magazine*, *Good Words for the Young*, *Aunt Judy*, *Cassell's Magazine*, the *Monthly Packet*, the *Sunday Magazine*, *Chambers's Journal*, and the *Leisure Hour*.

Mr. Overend, Q.C., late leader of the Midland Circuit, was entertained at a farewell dinner by his old friends of the Bar mess, at the Queen's Hotel, Leeds, last week.

The "Tayler Prize" of 50 gs., offered, through the Statistical Society, for the best essay on "Local Taxation," has been awarded to Mr. Robert H. Inglis Palgrave, of Yarmouth, third son of the late Sir Francis Palgrave.

A remarkable escape from death occurred last week at Bridport. John Hyde, a plumber, was at work in a well 30 ft. below the surface, when the sides collapsed. A piece of rock fell over him so as to hold up the superincumbent weight, and he was able to tell the people at the surface the nature of his position. After fifteen hours' hard work he was rescued, little the worse for his entombment.



OPENING OF THE ROYAL ALBERT HALL OF ARTS AND SCIENCES BY THE QUEEN.

FINE ARTS.

SOCIETY OF BRITISH ARTISTS.

We do not remember to have seen fewer exceptions than on the present occasion to the mass of common-place pictorial manufacture which always constitutes the bulk of a Suffolk-street exhibition. The older members of the society repeat the old subjects and their old mannerisms of treatment for their own peculiar market with a persistency that is quite hopeless. A few younger members who promised better things are following suit by trading on their small successes, and painting down to the least cultivated tastes. It is distressing to see the self-complacency with which the best places are monopolised by performances in which paint is substituted for power, artificial exaggeration takes the place of artistic effectiveness, and vulgarity obtrudes itself where, above all things, we desire modest refinement. The absence of artistic and general culture evinced in equal degree in the contributions by non-members suggests but gloomy anticipation for the future of our school. It is more obvious than ever that the English painter has no opportunity of acquiring the amount of education which is attainable and necessary to success in other professions. If a student of music, or law, or medicine, after a short association with other students as ignorant as himself, and with mere nominal instruction, were to set up as a public professional, what could he be but a quack and a pretender? Yet something closely analogous to this is done by the vast majority of British professional "artists;" although no reasonable person can suppose that fine art requires less discipline of mind, and eye, and hand than any other branch of human effort, open to general competition, by which men earn their bread. A youth chooses art as other professions are commonly chosen—from some natural liking or aptitude; but training is equally necessary in all. Genius is so extremely rare as to be almost beside the question; and in nine cases out of ten the genius is simply best taught.

The average character of the members' work here is so well known that an attempt at description or critical analysis is quite unnecessary. It is far beyond the scope of this article to correct the perceptions of those who accept such work as true art. There are, of course, exceptions more or less marked. Mr. G. Cole has real power, but his effects are more than usually forced. Mr. Syer's large landscape, "An Autumn Afternoon—North Wales" (142), though somewhat conventional, is cleverly handled and broad—a quality uncommon in the painter's works. Mr. Haynes King's picture of a cottage girl reading a love-letter is, apart from its hackneyed subject and reminiscence of Faed, a favourable sample of the "pretty art" prevalent here; but the reflexes are unnaturally vivid throughout. Mr. Roberts's "Arrival of the Pigeon-Post" (87)—a French peasant interior, with a girl hugging the bird, and an anxious old dame coming from an inner chamber—is nice, in feeling. "Going to the Christening" (33), by Mr. P. Levin, is a picturesque Tyrolean illustration, though the artist makes very arbitrary use of his colours. But the heavy, slovenly paintiness of Mr. Gosling's "Still Autumnal Day" (150) is a surprising falling off from last year's picture of a hay-field. Mr. H. Moore, too, is a painter whose works we have often had the pleasure to warmly admire; we regret, therefore, to find growing traces of haste and carelessness. Still, however, no other member has equalled the truth to nature of his "Dawn in the New Forest" (196); there is just the right modicum of definition to convey the required impression of indistinctness. The "Harvest Time" (114), with great gathering cumuli threatening a storm, likewise shows original observation. The artist paints from nature, not at the spectator, by resorting to studio tricks and scenic clap-trap. The picture is, however, unequal; the sky is fine, but in other portions there is the characteristic fault of opaque slateness taking the place of semi-transparent atmospheric tints. Works both in oil and water colours, by Mr. G. S. Walters, are also above the average of merit.

Among non-members with whom one makes acquaintance here more often than elsewhere several are infected by the contagious tendency to retrogression. Mr. Valentine Bromley, an artist who a few years since gave such excellent promise, is an instance. Such merit as his works now possess is inversely to their size. The largest, representing the seizure of Gaveston from his captors by the Earl of Warwick (126), is a melancholy failure. One of the smallest, entitled "Squalls" (462)—showing a pair of mediæval lovers standing, scornfully turning their backs on each other, the lady wearing an enormous horned head-dress of the fifteenth century—is the best, particularly as regards colour; but the conception is farcical; and where is the delicate draughtsmanship of earlier works? Let us, however, turn to the more agreeable task of selecting the pictures distinguished at least by a sincere endeavour.

Mr. Hemy has had the advantage of foreign training (in the school of Antwerp), and the result is conspicuous in the full, rich colouring and great relative truth of the hues in his "Beach at New-Lyn" (39) and "Courtyard, New-Lyn" (351). Mr. A. Saville Lumley, who has enjoyed similar advantages, contributes a well-painted study of a girl in a flowered sacque. Mr. Donaldson sends a pictorial version of the fable of "The Princess and her Seven Swan-Brothers" (163), which has certain artistic qualities of colour, derived, it would seem, partly from the old Venetian school, partly from the school of Ley, though wanting in the simple breadth and potency of the one and the emphatic strength of the other. The artist's undeniable colourist-instinct is not duly subordinated to truth of imitation either in form, colour, or texture. The veined marble balustrade here is like stained wood, the draperies like no possible textile fabric. But good drawing and truthful imitation are, we suppose, despised by the small knot of mediæval and "romantic" painters to whom Mr. Donaldson belongs, and their literary partisans.

Two seacoast sketches by Mr. W. L. Wyllie are among the most fresh, vigorous, and direct transcripts from nature in the exhibition. We allude to "Sunshine on the Solent" (34), where, however, the reflection on the sea is far too cold and brilliant for the brownish tone of the clouded sky; and "Off Boulogne" (514), in which the gradations of distance are expressed with subtle and rare felicity. Mr. H. Macallum's "Fishing for Bream" (179) shows the same excellent qualities which distinguished the drawing of "Flounder-Spearing," recently engraved by us. An effect of morning mist is very happily realised in No. 159, by Mr. Birtles. A sea-piece, with a grey morning effect (384), by Mr. T. Lloyd, is also to be commended for sober truthfulness. A little picture, by Mr. J. Emms, of a child kneeling at the foot of its bed saying its "Evening Prayer" (475), is in every respect charming. Mr. C. S. Lidderdale has a lifesize half-length study of a rustic lass, called "Day Dreams" (430), which is carefully drawn and modelled; but the painting is too clean and snug by half, the colouring rather crude. Mr. Koberwein's similar figure of a pretty Brittany girl, in her Sunday-morning trim (530), is even neater in execution than the last; but it is, at the same time, more characteristic, and the colouring is qualified and mellowed by "tone." Some cattle and other animal-pieces by Mr. C. Jones faithfully represent the creatures

introduced; but there is an unpleasant tendency to hot brown in the colouring, and the execution reminds one somewhat of Ansdell's later mechanical manner. A characteristic "Sketch from Nature of a Syrian" (120), by Mr. W. Gale; Mr. Harry Johnston's effective "Isles of Greece" (397); "Homeward Bound" (502), by Mr. Downard; an artistic bit of twilight effect on "Loch Etive" (109), by Mr. Teniswood; and a study of an interior at Knowle (106), by Mr. J. W. Chapman, also deserve notice. The following contributors are painters, of more or less merit, whose styles have long been familiar or who are represented on this occasion by unimportant examples—viz., in figure-subjects, Messrs. Hayllar, A. F. Patten, J. M. Barber, W. H. Weatherhead, and B. G. Head; in landscape, Messrs. J. Peel, S. R. Percy, A. W. Williams, A. Gilbert, A. Cole, A. B. Collier, G. W. Mote, and G. Hastings; in animal-pieces, W. Luker, J. S. Noble, H. Garland, and H. H. Couldry; in architecture, W. Henry; in still-life, W. Hughes.

The contents of the water-colour rooms would scarcely repay detailed examination. They consist in great part of crude attempts of young artists, many of them feebly echoing the styles of popular painters; there are some creditable drawings, but absolutely none of original commanding excellence. Finally, the exhibition is enriched by a few works of Academicians and Associates, lent by the painters themselves or private owners. Of these the most noteworthy is "The Warrior's Cradle" (146), by MacLise—a mother placing her sleeping babe in the hollow of an empty corset, watched by her lord armed cap-à-pie. The picture carries one into that curiously unreal theatrical world of MacLise's chivalric fancy. It is, however, more than usually happy in colour. Mr. Frith's lady of the "side-glance" and downcast look is very mildly *intrigante*—surely no dangerous beauty. How incredibly slight is the painting Mr. Frith vouchsafes to put into such "pot-boilers!" Mr. E. M. Ward's "Isaac Walton Fishing" (74), is, in its landscape portion, brilliant and effective in a positive, unrefined, unsuggestive way. There is much power in a small water-colour sketch of a head by the same. Mr. Leighton has three tiny sketches of Eastern landscape, of which "A View of the Red Mountains near Cairo" (328) is a most artistic little gem. "A Portrait of a Lady" (111), by Sir Francis Grant, finds an appropriate place in this exhibition.

THE ROYAL ALBERT HALL.

To our account of the opening of the Albert Hall a few words may be added on some of its structural and architectural features. Structurally, the hall must be regarded as a triumph. When we consider the number of problems which had to be solved in erecting a building so novel in plan and elevation, on a scale so unprecedented in modern times, great praise must be awarded to the foresight which provided the system of corridors, staircases, exits, refreshment and other rooms, and for sitting accommodation with unimpeded view in all parts. The construction of the ribbed iron framework of the roof is also a remarkable feat of engineering skill. The principal structural fault is the narrowness of the *vomitoria* leading to the conservatory of the Horticultural Society. A large proportion of the audience will always direct their steps to the conservatory after the performances in the hall, and in these exits considerable crowding took place on the opening day. Another defect is the directness of the openings into the arena and some other parts, thereby admitting most alarming draughts. But this defect may easily be remedied by screening the openings externally or internally.

The building has no high pretensions to architectural effect; yet there is much to commend from an artistic point of view. Like the Roman Coliseum, with which it must inevitably be compared, its form, viewed externally, has nothing, and could scarcely have anything graceful, elegant, or beautiful; and even the majesty which it might derive from mere bulk, if the mass were presented in a definite façade, vanishes with its receding curves. It is, however, superior to its giant prototype, in so far that its main divisions have proportionate and dignified breadth, and it is uniform in style; it is not encased with a veneering of discordant orders, with columns supporting nothing. The porches which form the carriage approaches, and also the base and principal story, have a certain massive stateliness; and the ornamental capabilities of terra-cotta, both as regards modelled form and variegated hues of colour, are well exemplified. The terra-cotta frieze, in buff and chocolate, is, however, a mistake in principle, a flat treatment being inadmissible where there is nothing else responsive to it in the ornamentation, and where the structural character of bas-relief is, therefore, imperatively needed. The effect is little superior to that of the meagre inlays with the ridiculously pigmy figures, within the pediment of the South Kensington Museum façade. The figures of the frieze are too small to be made out at a convenient point of view, situated as they are 65 ft. from the ground. The compositions of the various designers are of very different degrees of merit, but in none is the design sufficiently simple and emphatic. The objections to bas-relief were the heavy cost and long delay they would have entailed; but, considered in reference to its decorative value, the mosaics cannot be considered cheap at the cost of upwards of £4400.

It is characteristic of curvilinear buildings that their internal effect is always incomparably superior to their external. Within them the eye can follow curves which yet seem interminable, and thus the mind becomes filled with an impression of endless space and sublimity. The happiest architectural feature in the interior of the hall is the corridor of the so-called "Picture Gallery," with its arched openings supported on columns coupled by piers—one of the most beautiful characteristics of Italian Renaissance. The yellow colour of the scagliola columns is at present an eyesore which may be removed by judicious coloration of parts adjacent. The effect of the interior generally may be enormously enhanced by artistic decoration, but care must be taken to preserve a predominance of atmospheric grey, so as not to lose the impression of space which the uncoloured walls now convey. The absence of columns beneath the balconies of two of the box tiers has a somewhat unpleasant effect, though an advantage to the occupants. A curious error was committed in stencilling an ornament on the glass of the roof in rectilinear lines, not in curves corresponding to the lines of the building. This defect is, however, concealed by the *velarium*, which is very tastefully arranged and stencilled.

PICTURES FOR THE FORTHCOMING ACADEMY EXHIBITION.

The custom among artists—a custom reasonable and innocent enough in itself—of placing works intended for the Academy Exhibition on view to friends who may visit their studios a few days before the date for "sending in," has, we think, of late been much abused. The elaborate descriptions, the fulsome panegyrics, of some of these works which appear in certain quarters resemble scarcely anything else in the English press, though a parallel may be found in the venal announcements of French journalists and the vulgarities of "Yankee interviewing." It is, of course, not to be expected that one word can be uttered in dispraise of performances which you have seen under the hospitable roof of your personal friend—your protégé, perhaps, where you always have the entrée;

belonging to the clique of which you are a pledged partisan. It may, however, be strongly objected that the critic has no right whatever to publicly eulogise any work, whether it be in literature, art, music, or science, before its publication—before all can test the validity of the commendation for themselves. In regard to pictures intended for Burlington House the objection especially holds good, for many which may prove as good as, or better than, those the critic has the opportunity to privately examine, must of necessity be unfairly omitted. Moreover, it is impossible to correctly estimate the comparative merits of works when isolated, and placed with advantages of lighting and entourage which they can never enjoy in a public exhibition. For these among other reasons we shall (while reluctantly following the example of some of our contemporaries), at all events, exclude obviously unnecessary description and criticism from the following imperfect list of works which, it is reported, may be expected at the Academy Exhibition in May next.

Mr. Millais: The great picture, so long in progress, of "Moses on the Rock, assisted by Aaron and Hur to Lift his Hands and Stay the Battle." "The Somnambulist"—a maiden wandering, in her nightdress, holding a candle, at midnight, along the edge of a dangerous cliff; a subject which, treated by this artist, cannot fail to be impressive and popular. A landscape with a misty dawn effect, which shows the versatile power of the painter in a new direction.

Mr. Watts: Portraits of Messrs. Millais and Leighton. Mr. Calderon represents a duchess of the olden time receiving the last finishing touches from her maids previously to presenting herself at Court. Mr. Leighton illustrates the "Alcestis" of Euripides—the scene where Hercules struggles with Death for the life of Alcestis, which she offered in order to prolong the existence of Admetus, her husband.

Mr. Frith sends a sensational picture of the gambling saloon of Homburg. Mr. E. M. Ward has two pictures, one representing the arrival of Anne Boleyn at the Tower, the other Goldsmith's failure as a physician. The subject of Mrs. Ward's picture is a Swedish visitor to the Court of Frederick William of Prussia prophesying good fortune to his infant son, afterwards Frederick II. of Prussia. Mr. Pettie: the "Origin of the Wars of the Roses"—the Temple-garden scene in "Henry VI." Mr. Orchardson again breaks new ground in the "Interior of St. Mark's, Venice." Mr. Yeames: An incident in the life of Harvey, the discoverer of the circulation of the blood, representing the philosopher, when in the neighbourhood of Edgehill, in charge of the sons of Charles I., engaged in study until the bullets whistling through the trees awoke him to the danger of his charge. Mr. Leslie: "Nausicaa and her Maidens"—four lovely female figures illustrating the story in the sixth book of Homer's *Odyssey* of the Princess's preparations for her nuptials. The maidens are crowning their beautiful mistress with a myrtle wreath.

Mr. H. S. Marks: "The Bookworm"—an old antiquary, surrounded by a chaos of natural and artificial curiosities and old books. Mr. Poynter: a young Egyptian, priestess of Isis feeding the sacred ibises before the great Temple of Karnac. Mr. Mason: "The Harvest Moon in the North"—a picture, much larger than is usual with him, representing a party of reapers returning homewards. Mr. F. Walker's picture is said to represent a single figure of a woman standing in a dock awaiting her trial. Mr. Dobson's oil picture is entitled "Charity," and illustrates the text, "When thou doest alms, let not thy left hand know what thy right hand doeth." Mr. C. Lucy: "Charlotte Corday"—an expressive single half-length figure. Mr. Haynes Williams: "The Soldier's Last March"—an affecting picture of a Spanish procession accompanying a condemned soldier to the place of execution; and an effective picture of a Spanish girl fastening a talisman on a young matador previously to his entering the arena. Mr. McCallum: Italian and other landscapes. Messrs. Hayllar, Gale, Naish, Archer, Eyre Crowe ("A Quakers' Meeting"), and Wynfield may, it is said, be expected to be well represented. A dramatic picture by the last-named artist represents the Duchess of Buckingham swooning as she gazes on her dead lord stretched out on the green baize of the council chamber. Mr. Val Princep, among other pictures, has an illustration of the fable of Odin, the god of war, wandering over the world attended by his two ravens, representing Thought and Memory. Mr. Calthrop contributes an illustration of the "School for Scandal"—i.e., the toasting scene—"Here's to the Maiden of Bashful Fifteen!" &c. Mr. Hodgson sends two pictures of Arab desert life. Mr. Marcus Stone contributes an elaborate historical work. Mr. Storey sends a "conversation piece" and portrait subjects.

The Artists' General Benevolent Institution, one of the most useful, and perhaps the most economically-conducted charity in the kingdom, has lately formed a new separate fund for the support and education of artists' orphans—the demands on the original fund being too great to admit of its being available for the object indicated. Subscriptions to the new fund are received by Mr. I. C. Hardwick, treasurer, 21, Cavendish-square; and Mr. J. E. Millais, R.A., 7, Cromwell-place, South Kensington. Among the subscriptions already received are £1000 from Sir W. Tite, £500 from the Royal Academy; £250 from the late P. Hardwick, R.A., and £250 from Mr. P. C. Hardwick; £100 each from Messrs. Ansdell, R.A.; H. S. Bicknell; A. Elmore, R.A.; W. P. Frith, R.A.; C. Leaf; F. Leighton, R.A.; A. J. Lewis, Lewis Loyd, G. Moore, J. Murray, J. Reiss; G. E. Street, A.R.A., and G. F. Watts, R.A. The Prince of Wales will preside at a dinner in aid of the fund, on May 6, at Freemasons' Hall.

The following candidates have been elected associates of the Society of Painters in Water Colours:—Messrs. A. Goodwin, W. M. Hale, A. B. Houghton; H. S. Marks, A.R.A.; R. W. Macbeth, and J. W. North.

A number of water-colour sketches of considerable merit, by Mr. R. T. Prichett, chiefly representing scenes in Denmark, are on view at the gallery of Messrs. Agnew.

An exhibition of oil pictures, chiefly by foreign artists, has been opened by Mr. McLean, at his gallery in the Haymarket. We have not space for a detailed notice; but it may suffice, at least for the present, to say that the collection, though small, is of superior quality, and includes important or fair average examples of Auguste Bonheur, Alma Tadema, F. Roybet, F. Jacobacci, Jules Dupré, Portaels, Clays, Perrault, Diaz, and Toulmouche, among foreign artists; and Vicat Cole, J. Linnell, sen., G. H. Boughton, Creswick, and other English painters.

The insertion of a notice of the exhibition in the French Gallery is deferred till next week.

The President of the United States has presented a gold watch to Captain James Owen, of the British ship *Luxine*, of Liverpool, as a mark of appreciation of the services rendered by him in rescuing the surviving crew of the American schooner *John Todd*, lost at sea, on Dec. 15 last, while on a voyage to Havannah.

OBITUARY OF EMINENT PERSONS.

THE QUEEN OF SWEDEN.

Wilhelmina Frederica Alexandrina Anne Louise, Queen Consort of Charles XV., King of Sweden and Norway, died on the 30th ult. Her Majesty, a Princess of Orange, was born at the Hague, Aug. 5, 1828, the eldest daughter of Prince William Frederick Charles, Admiral of the Dutch Fleet (brother of the late King of Holland), by his wife, Princess Louise, sister of the present Emperor-King of Germany. She married, June 19, 1850, Charles, Crown Prince of Sweden, who succeeded his father as King, July 8, 1859; and was, with his Queen, crowned at Stockholm, May 3, 1860. The issue of the marriage is one child, Louise Josephine Eugénie, born Oct. 31, 1851; married, July 31, 1869, to the Crown Prince of Denmark. The King of Sweden is son of the late Oscar I. by Josephine de Beauharnais, his wife, and grandson of the French General Bernadotte, who ascended the throne of Sweden.

THE DOWAGER LADY CLINTON.

The Right Hon. Elizabeth Georgina, Dowager Lady Clinton, died on the 19th ult. at 67, Prince's-gate. Her Ladyship was born Sept. 25, 1807, eldest daughter of William, sixth Marquis of Lothian, K.T., by Harriet, his wife, daughter of Henry, sixth Duke of Buccleuch, K.G. She married, Oct. 25, 1831, Charles Rodolph, nineteenth Lord Clinton, and had issue four sons and six surviving daughters. Of the former, the eldest is Charles Henry Rolle, present Lord Clinton; and the second, the Hon. Mark George Kerr Rolle, of Stevenstone, Devon, High Sheriff of that county in 1864.

LADY BROWNE-CAVE.

Catherine Penelope, widow of Sir John Cave-Browne-Cave, Bart., died, at Kenilworth, on the 13th ult., aged seventy-one. Her Ladyship was younger daughter and coheiress of William Mills, Esq., of Barlaston Hall, in the county of Stafford; and was married to Sir John Robert Cave-Browne-Cave, tenth Bart., of Stanford, in the county of Northampton, Nov. 2, 1821. Her surviving issue consists of four sons and one daughter, the eldest of the former being the present Sir Mylles Cave-Browne-Cave, eleventh Baronet.

MR. HOWES.

Edward Howes, Esq., of Morningthorpe, in the county of Norfolk, J.P. and D.L., late M.P. for East Norfolk, died recently. He was born July 7, 1813, the second son of the Rev. George Howes, Rector of Spixworth, in the county of Norfolk, by Elizabeth, his first wife, daughter of Robert Fellowes, Esq., of Shotesham, and received his early education at St. Paul's School. Thence he proceeded to Trinity College, Cambridge, graduated B.A. in 1835, and was elected a Fellow of his college in 1836. Mr. Howes, who was called to the Bar by the Hon. Society of Lincoln's Inn in 1839, was in 1848 nominated Chairman of Quarter Sessions for Norfolk, and was elected M.P. for the eastern division of that county in 1859 and 1865. In 1866 he became an Ecclesiastical Commissioner. He married, first, March 16, 1842, Agnes Maria, fourth daughter of Richard Gwyn, Esq., which lady died, without issue, in February, 1843; and secondly, Sept. 4, 1851, Fanny, fourth daughter of Robert Fellowes, Esq., of Shotesham Park, and sister of Lady Sandhurst, by whom he leaves a son and a daughter.

MR. OSWALD OF AUCHENCRUIVE.

George Oswald, Esq., of Auchencruive, Ayrshire, and Cavens, stewart of Kirkcudbright, died at Auchencruive on the 27th ult., aged fifty-six. He was the younger son of Richard Alexander Oswald, Esq., of Moore Park, in the county of Lanark, by Elizabeth, his wife, daughter of John Anderson, Esq., merchant, of London, and was brother of the late Alexander Haldane Oswald, Esq., of Auchencruive, at one time M.P. for Ayrshire, whom he succeeded in September, 1868. Mr. Oswald, the subject of this notice, married, first, Lydia Margaret, daughter of Frederick Homan, Esq., of Ardenwood, in the county of Kildare, and by her (who died in March, 1844) had one son, the present Richard Alexander Oswald, Esq., and a daughter. He married, secondly, Julia Mary, daughter of Colonel Ferrier Hamilton, of Cairnhill, and Westport, in the county of Ayr, by whom he had two daughters. He was left a widower, March 7, 1860.

WILLS AND BEQUESTS.

The will of the Hon. Lady Hoare, daughter of the second Earl of Romney, was proved in London, on the 24th ult., by her sons, Henry Hoare, banker, Fleet-street, and Charles Hoare, Esqrs., the joint acting executors. The personality was sworn under £50,000. Her Ladyship was the relict of Henry Hoare, Esq., of Staplehurst, who died in 1866. She afterwards resided at Frittenden House, Kent, and at 17, Portman-square, where she died, Feb. 23 last, aged fifty-nine. Her Ladyship was the mother of twelve children. The will, which was only dated Feb. 8 last, is purely of a family nature, the dispositions being for the benefit of her numerous family.

The will of Sir John Dorney Harding, D.C.L., Q.C., late Queen's Advocate, formerly of Doctors'-commons, and late of Rockfield, Monmouthshire, was proved in London, on the 25th ult., by his relict, Dame Isabella Harding, the sole executrix, the trustees being William Hastings Martin Atkins, Esq., and Sir Henry Singer Keating. The personality was sworn under £16,000. The original will, dated Feb. 16, 1863, was partially injured by fire, and has been before the Court, and proof sustained by the admission of the draught and the decree of the Judge. The testator has liberally provided for his wife beyond a settlement on marriage, and has left her Ladyship certain freehold estates absolutely, also a life annuity charged upon the estates bequeathed to his eldest son. His nephew, John Harding, succeeds to the family estates. The testator has left liberal bequests to his sister, Mrs. Caroline Skinner, and to his sister-in-law, Eleanor Harding, widow, and legacies to other members of his family. He bequeaths (free of duty) to the Children's Home at Mitcham £100; and to the Vicar and churchwardens of Rockfield £200, the interest for providing food and clothing for three poor old inhabitants of Rockfield. There is the following clause:—"I desire that, subject to the regulations of the societies of the Inner and Middle Temple, and with their permission, a plain tablet, containing my name and office, and dates of my birth, appointments, and death, should be placed in the triforium or gallery of the Temple Church, among those of my friends and brother Benchers, and the leaders of the noble profession to which I have the honour to belong." Sir John was in his sixtieth year.

The will of William Cooper Keating, formerly of Soho-square, afterwards of Lambbridge, and late of the Royal Crescent, Bath, where he died on Feb. 1 last, was proved in London under £50,000, personality; the executors appointed being Mary Keating, the relict, Admiral John E. Walcott, R.N. (since deceased), William Robertson, and Charles J. Cox, Esqrs. The testator, after leaving legacies to his executors and to his servants, bequeaths to his wife a life-interest over £23,000 Three per Cents, which after her decease is to go to the children of his sister-in-law, Mrs. Paul; and appoints his wife

residuary legatee, with power of disposal over the same as she may think proper.

The will of Mrs. Maria Berry, containing bequests to several charitable institutions in Liverpool, was proved in Liverpool under £30,000, and the official copy has been transmitted to the London Court.

CHESS.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

HERR KLING.—The position has, perhaps, been wrongly copied. As sent to us, it allows of an easy mate by—

1. Kt to K 6th (ch) K to Q 6th * 1. K to K 6th

2. R to Q 2nd (ch) K to Q 5th 2. B to Q 6th (ch), and mate next move.

COLONA.—The last received is neat and pretty; but, like the former, is much too easy. JOHN SCOTT.—Very good. It has been set down for insertion.

H. T. M. K., Mayfield.—Yes; but the adaptation of words to the Tour is but a small part of the Problem. The geometrical and arithmetical arrangements are far more important and difficult.

As a rule, too, as regards the syllables, it is better to choose lines

of four feet—i.e., of eight syllables, to harmonise with the eight squares of each rank and file of the chessboard.

MARIE FRIDA.—The long list of signatures in our last Number was wrongly headed. The

signatures were those of correspondents who had solved the *Knight's Tour*, No. III.

MONDAY.—You have evidently given another *Knight's Tour* next week.

NOTICE.—You have evidently taken the trouble to find what is the sum of the figures

in every column, vertically and horizontally, of the last *Knight's Tour*. When you have

done so, you will have some notion of the difficulty involved in the construction of these

soothingly simple puzzles.

THE ENGLISH CLASS, College-street; MARIE, Oporto.—You have very nearly achieved

the solution, but not quite.

MIDGE.—If this correspondent will persist in troubling us again about Problem No. 137

he must be the politeness to send his name and address. His proposed solution is utterly untenable, and we cannot spare time to examine the problem any more to gratify

an anonymous questioner.

TOM O' LINCOLN is warmly thanked. We suspected what he affirms was the case, and

have taken the steps recommended. He will be good enough now, perhaps, to communicate by post.

DEACO.—The games have come safely to hand, and are very acceptable.

G. S., Melbourne.—A reply to our old and esteemed friend's welcome letter shall be

forwarded by next mail.

E. T.—We confess you appear to have hit a blot. Your suggestion shall be submitted to

the author.

I. W., Quebec.—They shall have immediate attention.

HERR STEINKUBLER, Manchester.—Among the very many hundred letters received this

week, your note, with the present address of the Manchester Chess Club, has been mis-

laid. Will you be so good as to send us a second copy?

G. E. I., Egmondville, Province of Ontario.—It always affords us pleasure to record Canadian chess, and we are sorry therefore that the game between Seaforth and Clinton will not be published.

SOLUTIONS OF THE KNIGHT'S TOUR, NO. 3.—The long list of signatures in our last

list we have now to add the following signatures of those who have successfully solved the

Problem:—R. A. B.—Lorne—Lorne—Q. E. D.—Philochess—Dominick—P. B. D.—P. R.

K.—Albert—L. M. G.—Iota—D. D.—Eigismund—Veritas—D. A.—Learner—Dromoc-

C. S.—Aristarchus—Ferdinand—B. C. G.—Margrave—I. B.—Conad—Dorn—Mars

Blewit—I. D. F.—Rev. G. S.—Penzance—Moldavia—Sycorax—W. M. C. of Cirencester

—P. B. C.—S. S.—Louisa—G. F.—Annette—B. A. O.—Gonzalo—L. K.—Duke of Milan

—R. W.—Prospero—I. W.—R. P.—G. S.—P. B.—C. Mrs. Galbraith—Kantau—Z.—

Cooksey—C. Bulow—M. P.—J. Spyer—Kendall—A. C.—C. Mrs. Galbraith—Kantau—Z.—

Cotton—Yoxford (a perfect solution, geometrically, arithmetically, and syllabically)

C. B.—L. L. L. (a perfect solution, geometrically, arithmetically, and syllabically)

Lily of Pickle—G. L. and B. G.—Birmingham—Lady S. Marriott—Twyford—The

Queen's Knight—Bevan Dixon—I. P. S.—Mr. Moore, Co. Kildare—C. L. Symonds

—Medieval—Neruda—Herman of Liverpool—I. M. I. P.—S. St—Bindweed—V. P.—R. C.

Bardett—Lutterworth—I. B. B.—C. G.—P. W.—Miranda—Adrian—Adelus (a perfect

solution, geometrically, arithmetically, and syllabically)—Egbert—F. B. K.—Sebastian

—A. E.—Ross—Robert Bennett, of Wisbech—Viola—R. Young—Colchester

—C. D.—Norwich—I. P. A.—T. S. M. G.—Barnaby—Clemo—Olivia—Kirkby—E. M. B.

I. T. S.—Jane—Romola—Edward—Lord M.—Major-General B.—Louis—Portmian—Tom

of Lincoln—Emily—Peon—W. G. D.—Phantom—Hermes—T. P. C.—Guzara—Henry

—W. E. K.—John—Fitzroy—B. G. A.—Varigold—Ernest—C. H.—Geraldine—M. A.

of Oxford—W. S. B.—Isis—I. N.—Lucinda—P. B.—and Bevra

Omega—Cafe Venetia—Liege— and Mayflower.

** The greater part of our answers to Correspondents is postponed for a week.

SOLUTION OF PROBLEM NO. 1414.

WHITE. BLACK. WHITE. BLACK. WHITE. BLACK.

1. Kt to K 4th R takes P R to Q 2nd (ch), and R gives mate next move.

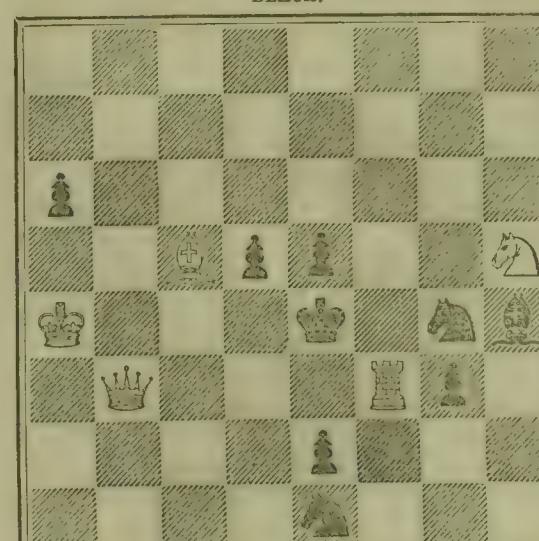
If R takes K (ch), then 2. B takes R and 2. Kt to Q 2nd Any move.

If R takes K, then 2. R gives mate.

PROBLEM NO. 1415.

By Mr. F. HEALEY.

BLACK.



WHITE.

White, playing first, gives mate in four moves.

CHESS IN EDINBURGH.

A. Game between Mr. ROSENTHAL and Dr. FRASER; the former playing twelve games besides at the same time.—(Philidor's Defence.)

WHITE (Mr. R.) BLACK (Dr. F.) WHITE (Mr. R.) BLACK (Dr. F.)

1. P to K 4th B to K 4th 19. B to Q 4th R to Q 2nd (ch)

2. Kt to K B 3rd P to Q 3rd 20. B takes E R to Q 2nd

3. P to Q 4th P takes P 21. Kt to K 7th (ch) Kt to R sq

4. Kt takes P B to K 2nd 22. Kt takes R Q takes Kt

5. B to Q 3rd Kt to B 3rd 23. Kt takes Kt Kt takes Kt

6. Castles Castles 24. B to Q 2nd Q to Q 4th (ch)

7. P to K B 4th P to Q 4th 25. Q to Q 4th Q to Q 3rd

8. Kt to K B 3rd P to Q 5th 26. R to K B 2nd Kt to K 5th

9. B takes P Kt takes P 27. R to K 2nd Kt to K 3rd

10. B to K 3rd B to K 3rd 28. Q R to K sq Kt to K sq

11. P to Q B 3rd Q to Q B 2nd 29. B to K 4th Kt takes B

12. Kt to Q B 3rd P to Q 3rd 30. R takes Kt P to K B 4th

13. B to Q K 3rd P to Q Kt 4th 31. Kt to K 2nd P to K R 3rd

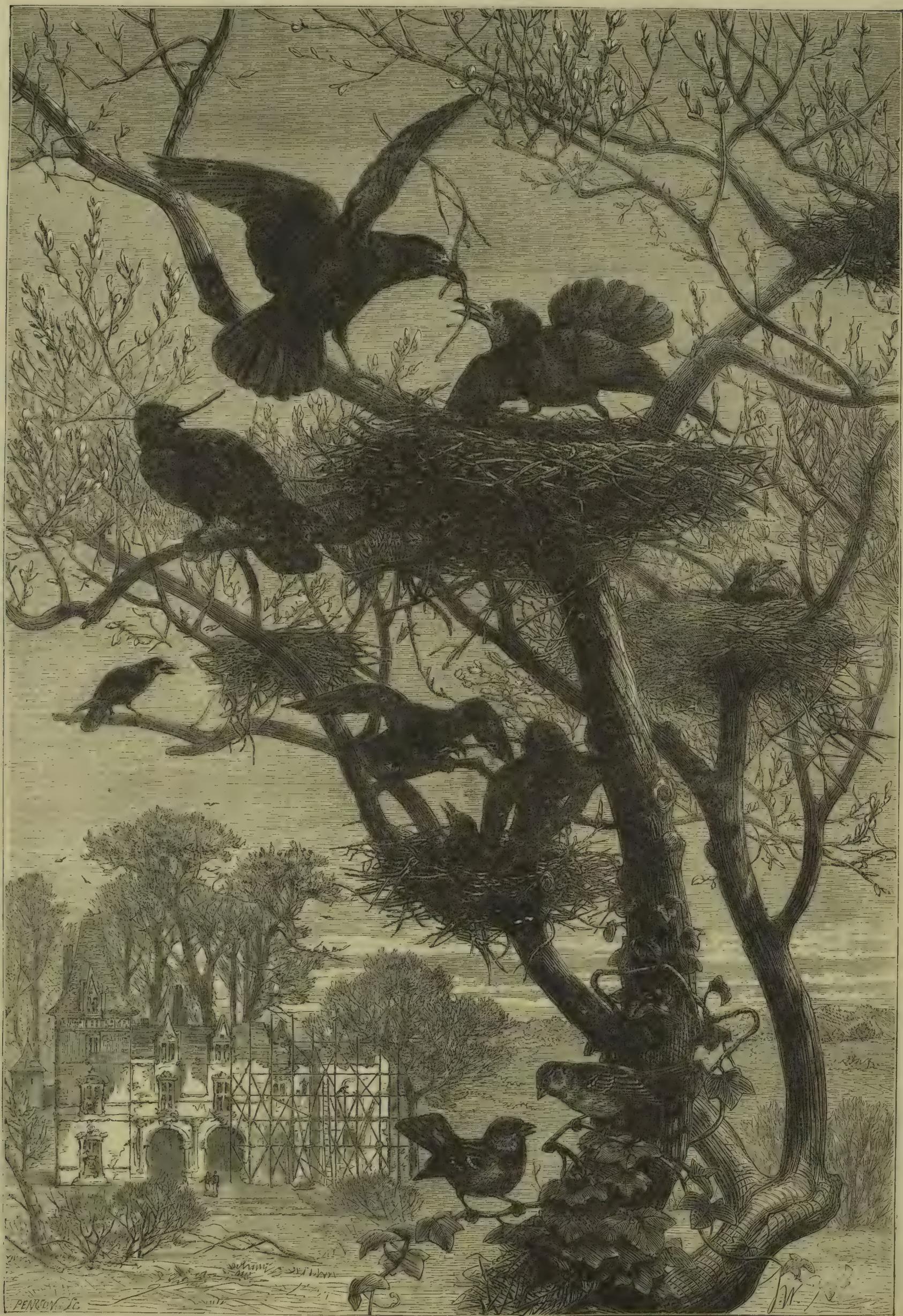
14. Kt to Q B 2nd Kt to Q Kt 2nd 32. Q to K B 2nd Kt to R 2nd

15. Kt to Q Kt 4th Kt to Q 2nd 33. Kt to K 7th R to B 3rd

16. Kt to Q 5th Q to Q B 3rd 34. Q R to K 6th R takes R

Q to Q sq would have been less injurious. 35. R takes R Q to Q 4th

36. R to K 7th Q to Q 8th (ch)



REBUILDING.



THE CIVIL WAR IN PARIS: THE CANNON AT MONTMARTRE.

SKETCHES IN PARLIAMENT.

Very significant indications have been given that the House of Commons, as a body, does not care for debates on foreign policy, and particularly that *ex post facto* discussion which invariably comes to pass, because Ministers always implore that no organised comment shall be made on international negotiations while they are proceeding. Thus it has come about that Sir Charles Dilke failed to excite any interest or to produce any effect by bringing forward his motion condemnatory of the policy of the Government in accepting a Conference on the Black Sea question. From what cause it is not easy to say. Sir Charles Dilke is as sturdy and steady an opponent of the Government as Mr. Fawcett—going even to the length of being one of a minority of three which has now voted against Ministers, which is next door to a ludicrous position. On this occasion, though he, no doubt, saw that the real opportunity had slipped through his fingers, and may have been aware that a possible junction between the "below-the-gangwayites" and the Opposition was coming to naught, in the exercise of that obstinate independence which characterises him, he went on with his motion, and without doubt made a very telling speech on his side of the question. Every sentence, every statement, every illustration, every deduction went trippingly from his tongue, and the marked absence of any straining after rhetorical effect was, however paradoxical it may seem to say so, particularly effective. But never was so much what may be called, in a certain sense, Parliamentary "sweetness" wasted on a desert air. In a manner, he had no audience; those of the "below-the-gangwayites" who were present were ominously silent, and the few Opposition members in place were reticent of their cheers until he sat down. Such was the state of things when Mr. Somerset Beaumont was seconding the motion that, though he is a gentleman who gives the notion that few, if any, voices are as pleasant to his ear as his own, he must have been dashed by the solemn emptiness of the House, and palpably did not deliver the oration which might have been expected from him. As to Mr. Rylands, his bluff self-belief—nay, let justice be done him, his straightforward honesty—was not to be abashed by any circumstances of discouragement, and in asserting his motion of confidence in the Government he rattled away and got as excited as if he had been stimulated by the hoarse idiomatic cheers of a meeting of Lancashire men three thousand strong. Then a very incredible thing happened; for it may be taken as a fact that Mr. R. N. Fowler, the most angular and unsmooth speaker in the House, exercised a considerable influence on the result, for to some people the course he took in opposing the motion was suggestive of a falling-off of many of the Opposition of his own calibre, who generally herd together in the lobby against the Government. What may have been Mr. Disraeli's tactic is of course inscrutable; but it was supposed that he would take Sir C. Dilke under his temporary protection and vote with him, after having delivered an elaborate criticism on the policy of the Government; and his putting up Lord John Manners to twit Mr. Gladstone in his most anathematising manner was thought to be a device of the leader of the Opposition to get the Prime Minister to follow, so that he himself might have the last word. But it was evident from Mr. Gladstone's manner that he saw this was a case in which the course of letting things alone was the most judicious; so he did not stir, and caused Lord Enfield to give way to Sir Robert Peel, who, it was anticipated, would, as his manner has been of late, run amuck against Ministers, whereas he altogether blessed them—if blessings are ever uttered in a voice of thunder. As if to illustrate the perfunctory condition of the debate, Mr. Charles Dalrymple, a Scotch Conservative member, was allowed, at a very witching hour, to flounder out a few half-intelligible sentences; and then Lord Enfield, in his neat, precise way, but with an air as if he thought that he was called to take part in a sciomachy, and need not, therefore, exert himself in a rhetorical point of view, set forth a plain statement of the Government case. When he sat down it was twenty minutes past eleven, and there was a pause so significant of there being no candidates for hearing that Mr. Otway, who was expected to cleanse his bosom of that terrible secret cause of his leaving the Ministry, moved the adjournment of the debate, being, as he said, physically incapable of talking that night. Of course, the situation was so clear that Mr. Gladstone would not hear of that, and still less would he tolerate the withdrawal of the motion by Sir Charles Dilke, who must long before have come to the conclusion that he had made a *fiasco*. While the matter was pending there suddenly broke out from a top bench a cry, as it were, from a sub-acid voice, and Mr. Osborne set in for one of his comic-severe diatribes on Sir C. Dilke which, if the phrase may be excused, are known in low vernacular as "slangings"; and, as he likened the discussion to the "flogging of a dead horse," some might have thought that his assaults on Sir C. Dilke were a cognate operation. Any way, a portentous motion on a great question of foreign policy ended by being negatived amidst considerable laughter; Mr. Gladstone, of course, looking calmly satisfied, and Mr. Disraeli more imperturbable than ever. What had he to do with the occurrence? Who can say?

Such being the temper of the House in regard to what may be called a mere retrospect of a question of foreign policy, it was not likely that it would be attracted on the very next evening by a similar performance. So it came about that when Mr. Baillie Cochrane rose to ask, even now, for intervention to obtain milder terms of peace for France from Germany, his audience was extremely select in the sense of being few, and whether it was a fit one was just doubtful. Notably the Opposition were remarkable by their absence, and the conspicuous emptiness of the front Opposition benches was indicative of a want of *rapprochement* between Mr. Cochrane and the leaders. Nevertheless, under circumstances which were daunting to the utmost, with positive heroism Mr. Cochrane opened his case with as much care, emphasis, and—from his point of view—ability as if he had had a "listening Senate" hanging on his lips, the applause of which he was commanding at every sentence. He was happy in that he contrived to seem unconscious of the almost vacuum in which he spoke; and his steady adherence to his purpose was so far rewarded that he brought from Mr. Gladstone perhaps the most complete and detailed exposition of the policy of the Government in reference to the late war that he has yet pronounced.

There has been scant opportunity in this column to give welcome to Mr. G. Bentinck on his return to the House, where he disports himself as ever. The hon. gentleman did a great feat a few nights ago, for he was not only humorous himself but the cause of humour in others; for, on his provocation, for once Mr. Ayrton created laughter—ay, and Mr. Gladstone, inspired by a spirit which is rare with him, uttered for nearly ten minutes, with a marvellous rapidity and sequence, a series of jocular sentences, every one of which brought out spontaneous and hearty laughter, in which none joined so genially as Mr. Bentinck, who was thus thrice blessed; for he not only amused his audience himself but extracted for them drollery out of, perhaps, the two most unpromising sources in the House.

IMPERIAL PARLIAMENT.

Both Houses have adjourned for the Easter holidays. In the House of Lords, yesterday week, Lord Dalling and Bulwer took his seat. The Lord Chancellor laid on the table a bill providing for excluding from the House peers who may be adjudicated bankrupt. Lord Derby gave the Foreign Secretary an opportunity of explaining the circumstances under which the envoys of the Abyssinian Prince Kassa, who were sent by that chief with letters and presents to the Queen, had been detained in Egypt. A story was afloat some weeks ago to the effect that these envoys had been informed that there were no funds at the disposal of the Foreign Office wherewith to defray their expenses to England. Lord Granville explained that the Foreign Office had acted under the advice of Lord Napier of Magdala, who represented the inexpediency of exciting the jealousy of other Abyssinian chiefs by conferring special marks of distinction upon Kassa. The envoys had been courteously treated, and the letters and presents would be suitably acknowledged. Several measures were advanced a stage, including the Public Parks (Land) Bill, which was passed through Committee. At its rising the House adjourned for the Easter holidays until Thursday, the 20th inst.

In the House of Commons, yesterday week, Mr. Cardwell announced that he intends to ask the House to go into Committee on the Army Estimates on the 17th inst., and on the Army Regulation Bill on the 24th. The Marquis of Hartington brought up the report of the Select Committee on Unlawful Combinations in Westmeath. On the order for going into Committee of Supply, Mr. B. Cochrane moved a resolution relating to the conditions of peace imposed by Germany on France, and expressive of the hope that her Majesty's Government would, in the interest of the future tranquillity of Europe, use their good offices, before the negotiations are finally closed, to obtain from the Imperial Government some mitigation of the severity of those conditions. It elicited a reply from the Prime Minister, which was accepted as so far satisfactory that Mr. Cochrane withdrew his motion. The only other question discussed prior to going into Committee was the recent acquittal of Martha Torpey at the Central Criminal Court, on the plea that she was presumed to have acted under the compulsion of her husband. That subject dropped, the House went into Committee on the Civil Service Estimates. £70,000 was voted on account of expenditure for the Post Office and telegraphs, and Mr. Baxter asked for a sum of £1,786,100 on account of Civil Service Estimates and Revenue Departments. This proposal led to a discussion upon the general question of the Civil Service Estimates, the manner of voting them, and the time at which they are brought forward, as well as the length of the speeches delivered by members in different parts of the House, and the persons to whom culpability should attach for the usual postponement of these estimates to the fag end of the Session. At the close of this interlude the vote was agreed to, and the House resumed. The Lectionary Bill was read the second time, on the understanding that the discussion would be taken upon going into Committee; and the Bank Holidays bill was passed.—On Monday the Secret Voting Bill was read the second time, upon the understanding that the debate on the principle of the measure is to be taken on the motion for going into Committee; and subsequently the Home Secretary expounded his proposals for a reform of the licensing system, and obtained leave to introduce a bill for the purpose. The Marine Mutiny Bill was read the third time and passed. Leave was given to Mr. Hardcastle to bring in a bill to repeal the minority clauses of the Reform Act; and Mr. Goschen introduced the Ministerial bills relating to local government and local taxation.—At the morning sitting of the House on Tuesday the Secret Voting Bill was committed pro forma, and amendments were introduced prohibiting the officials engaged in superintending the poll at Parliamentary and municipal elections from giving information as to who had or had not recorded their votes, and extending the measure to Scotland; the Inclosure-Law Amendment Bill was read the second time and referred to a Select Committee, who will have power to send for persons, papers, and records. The Trades Unions Bill and the Criminal Law Amendment (Masters and Workmen) Bill, as amended, were considered; and leave was given to Mr. Goschen to bring in the Rating and Local Government Bill and the Local Taxation Bill. Some other bills were also brought in; and the House adjourned until Monday, the 17th inst.

The Committee appointed to consider the means of facilitating the dispatch of business in the House of Commons recommends—(1), That Parliament should meet in November instead of in February; (2), That the Government shall have Monday nights for Committee of Supply, without the intervention of motions on the Speaker's leaving the chair; (3), That a bill or motion to which notice of opposition has been given before four o'clock of the day on which it stands in the orders shall not be taken after half-past twelve; and (4), That when a morning sitting has been held, no "count-out" shall be allowed in the evening sitting till fifteen minutes after the re-assembling of the House.

THE REVENUE.

THE YEAR ended March 31, 1871.			QUARTER ended March 31, 1871.		
Revenue	Increase	Decrease	Revenue	Increase	Decrease
Customs... 20,191,000	—	1,328,000	4,927,900	—	14,000
Excise... 22,788,000	1,025,000	—	7,365,000	351,000	—
Stamps... 9,067,000	—	241,000	2,412,000	—	13,000
Taxes... 2,725,000	—	1,775,000	1,911,000	—	216,000
Property Tax 6,350,000	—	3,694,000	4,674,000	—	1,110,000
Post Office... 4,770,000	100,000	—	1,299,000	120,000	—
Telegraphs... 500,000	400,000	—	100,000	—	—
Crown Lands 385,000	10,000	—	120,000	6,000	—
Miscellaneous 3,229,220	23,968	—	706,031	—	417,735
Totals... 69,945,220	1,558,968	7,048,000	23,505,031	477,000	1,800,735
Net Decrease, £5,489,032			Net Decrease, £1,323,735		

The Jersey Legislature has passed a bill for the construction of a harbour of refuge at the island, to be composed of a landing-stage on the east and a breakwater on the west side of the small roads. The cost of the works will be £250,000.

M. Leonard Chodzho, librarian of the Sorbonne, one of the most distinguished members of the Polish emigration of 1831, died recently at Poitiers, aged seventy-one.

At the annual meeting of the Edinburgh Chamber of Commerce, on Thursday week, Mr. Josiah Livingstone, who has for two years acted as chairman, was again re-elected to that office; Mr. David M'Laren and Mr. M'Lagan, M.P., being elected deputy chairmen.

The Board of Trade has received through the Foreign Office a silver medal which has been awarded by the Swedish and Norwegian Government to Mr. John Sweeny, master of the ship *Boreas*, of New Ross, in acknowledgment of his having saved the crew of the Norwegian vessel *Nathanael*, of Jousberg, which vessel capsized in the Atlantic Ocean.

REBUILDING.

BY A MEMBER OF THE ROOKERY.

"Birds of a feather flock together." I, for the nonce, have assumed the quill—a crow-quill, it so happens—and will take a flight of fancy, and place myself amongst the feathered colony in the tall elm-trees, where I can get a bird's-eye view of passing events.

Caw! caw! How delightful it is getting over the ground as the crow flies! And one can see so well all that is going on in the earth below. Darwin, like a sensible biped, gives us birds the credit of having some little reasoning power; so do not be surprised if I plume myself upon having some opinions of my own upon passing events. At least you men must admit that you are below me in position, and that I can form my judgments from a high standpoint. I think men are quarrelsome, destructive creatures. For the past half year or more, for some unaccountable cause, they have been slaying each other. In my flights abroad I have seen heaps of dead, mutilated by every sort of infernal weapon that man, with his vaunted intelligence, has been able to invent.

You could not guess, now, that that blackened ruin was, last year, the prettiest château in the neighbourhood, and had the most lovely grounds. Those cowardly Prussians (I am a French rook) have paid us a visit.

What wanton horrors mark'd their wretched path!

And just because the noble owner of the house refused to accede to their avaricious demands, they set fire to his home and destroyed his gardens.

We rooks have our troubles also. Every year, after the winter storms, we have to renew our nests. At the very time we are carrying sticks to our lofty home, we are disturbed by the busy masons on the scaffolding. Both men and birds are at the same work, that of *rebuilding*. But, I say, why cannot men live in happy and peaceful communities, like us rooks? Ah! there goes a rascally compatriot with one of my twigs. May he be rook-pied! Alas! I am afraid there are villains in all societies. Caw! caw!

THE FIRST OF APRIL.

The day of the annual boat-race on the Thames from Putney to Mortlake, between the champion crews of the Oxford and Cambridge Universities, happened this year to be the perilous First of April, vulgarly called All Fools' Day. Some fools are no doubt to be found, or easily made, on that day, as well as upon most other days in the calendar; and there is a customary license of malicious hoaxing or deceiving, which is too often used to increase their number. With so many thousands of Londoners idly spending two or three of the best hours of their morning on the river banks, and waiting for their desired momentary glimpse of the rival eight-oars darting up the broad stream in fierce competition of speed, the temptation to beguile the time in the privileged fun of the day must have been very commonly indulged. But there were some other victims of delusion, who got the laugh turned against them with as little mercy, but whose betrayers were rather prompted by a shrewd intention to gain shillings at the cost of helpless inexperience, than by the purpose of adding to social mirth. Upon the low little islets or "aisles" of the river near Chiswick, as well as in the osier-beds that fringe its banks, were assembled not a few parties of spectators who had been landed there by the cunning boatmen, ferrying them over from the safe path for the small fee of sixpence a head. As the tide was coming up fast and full, soon meeting a strong north wind, and causing a formidable swell, these patches of marshy ground, if not actually overflowed, were presently so washed by the waves as to make unpleasant standing-places.

The boats lay still alongside, and the disgusted sightseers impatiently demanded to be taken back to the shore from which they had come. But the boatmen had "got the pull of them," and were much too wise not to take advantage of their situation. How much would old Charon have asked a heathen soul at the ferry of Styx for conveying him back from the domain of gloomy Pluto to this world's shore? He would not have done the job at any price; but the "jolly young waterman who at Blackfriars used for to ply," when he has got his customers into such a mess on the swampy aisles of Chiswick, will release them for 2s. 6d. apiece. His reasoning upon this occasion is probably the same as that of the gravedigging clown in "Hamlet"—Give me leave. Here lies the water; good. Here stands the man; good. If the man go to this water and drown himself, it is, will he, nill he, he goes; mark you that. But if the water come to him"—

The terrified, or vexed and enraged party on the half-submerged mud-bank feel no inclination to hear the end of this argument. We see how they look in our Artist's sketch, engraved for a page of this Number. The Gull, appropriate name of the boat employed in this case, has already received two or three youths, one of whom, having paid his half-crown (and perhaps the same charge for his brother or companion), woefully shows his last coin remaining for their holiday expenses. Upon the islet stand, or sink to the ankles in cold slush, those other martyrs to the First of April, with its follies and knaveries, who have not yet made up their minds to pay the sum exacted for their deliverance. There is Paterfamilias, stout and respectable, with anxious wife and admiring son; the two latter, indeed, cannot help being amused to see him glare through his gold spectacles, and shake his fat fist in the boatman's face. There is the young gentleman who has brought a young lady to see the boat-race, and who may well be annoyed at his failure to take care of her comfort. There are the little children, fearful and tearful, adding to the distress of their parents; husband and wife, regretting that they have left home this unlucky morning, are computing the unforeseen cost of its disagreeable adventures. Such things took place on Saturday last, the First of April, among those who went to see the boat-race; but they were forgotten, let us hope, on Sunday morning.

In the quarter ending March there sailed from Liverpool 18,279 emigrants, against 21,571, who left during the corresponding period of 1870.

A young woman named Jane Parry, of Liverpool, was, on Sunday evening, filling up a Census paper, when she fell backwards and died almost instantly.

The Hereditary Grand Duchess Augusta of Mecklenburg-Schwerin, Princess of Hesse-Homburg, died, last Saturday, at Ludwigsburg, at the age of ninety-five.

A telegram from Bucharest states that Prince Charles has issued a decree dissolving the Roumanian Chambers, and that the Ministry has tendered its resignation.

The eighth Census of the United Kingdom was taken on Monday. The Registrar-General requests occupiers, lodgers, and heads of families not enumerated to apply forthwith to the Registrars of their respective districts, or to the Secretary, Census Office, Craig's-court, Charing-cross, London, S.W. About 6,500,000 schedules were sent out, but it is possible that some of them may not have reached their destination.

NEW BOOKS.

Paris is the city of the seven sieges. Her first experience in that way was in 885, when she underwent at the hands of the terrible Northmen a great deal of suffering during a period of thirteen months. The history of that tribulation is, as M. Guizot remarks, nowhere more trustworthily, more completely, and more diffusely described than in a not otherwise remarkable poem written by Abbo, a monk of St. Germain des Prés. The last siege or investment of Paris has been the theme of a hundred writers, some perhaps, less accurate and less fond of detail, but all, certainly, better masters of style than the ancient monkish poetaster. It can hardly be expected of any mortal man that he should be able to read and compare together a hundred different accounts; but it will be found instructive and even to a greater degree entertaining, to peruse as many of them as possible. And it would be a pity to omit the pleasure of making acquaintance with the *Journal of the Siege of Paris*, by the Hon. Captain Bingham (Smith, Elder, and Co.). The first date to be found in the book is Sept. 18, 1870; and the last is Jan. 29, 1871. The events which occurred before the author's eyes, or with which he became acquainted by ordinary or extraordinary means, are recorded in the manner of a shrewd observer and cultivated writer. If it appear that his tone is lighter, sometimes, than so serious a subject might have suggested, and that he shows a decided taste for scandal and a strong inclination to indulge in sneers, it must be allowed that he merely follows the prevailing fashion, and it cannot be denied that he is very readable, and has a very agreeable dash of piquancy. If it had been announced on the titlepage or elsewhere that his journal, or parts of it, had already been presented to the public in the columns of some newspaper, a satisfactory explanation would have been afforded of the otherwise singular familiarity which characterises certain passages; but, perhaps, it is merely fancy which represents the really new as old and familiar. At any rate, there are very many to whom the "stinging song" inserted at page 246 will be a more or less gratifying novelty. It will, peradventure, set them thinking of happier days, and prepare them for doing full justice to *Fair France*, by the Author of "John Halifax, Gentleman" (Hurst and Blackett), which is a very pleasant volume. The author "used to boast, with pardonable, or unpardonable, conceit, of being one of the very few Britons who have never quitted their native shores;" but the reader will have excellent reason to rejoice that "at length Fate, acting by the tender compulsion with which she does act sometimes, driving us almost against our will to our best interest and keenest enjoyment, smoothed the way towards conversion; and one April day the infidel found herself—scarcely by her own volition, but still without unnecessary repining—on board of a Calais packet." There is about the volume an air of serene happiness quite refreshing after the feverish excitement which has been and, unfortunately, seems likely, for some time to come, to be communicated to us by telegraph from our neighbours in beautiful France; and that what the author has to tell is told in attractive language it may be considered superfluous to take the trouble of stating.

One of the freshest and pleasantest descriptive books of foreign travel is a new one by the Rev. M. R. Barnard, called *Sketches of Life, Scenery, and Sport in Norway* ("Field" Library, Horace Cox). The author has been long known to us as an accomplished explorer and describer of whatever is most interesting, both in the wonderful landscapes and in the social habits and nationality of that country, which he has often visited since his more lengthened abode there. Many incidental sketches written by him for different periodicals are reproduced in this unpretending volume, with a scientific account of the botany of the Dovrefjeld, and a description of Setersdal, which appeared in his former work, "Sport in Norway, and Where to Find It." But the main contents of the present book will be new to most readers, and will afford them a great deal of healthy entertainment. Mr. Barnard does not loiter in the towns, but contents himself with an amusing peep at the dinner and ball-room customs of good society in Christiania; after which he passes by steam-boat up the Miösen Lake, and repairs to his shooting-box on a nameless fjeld, where he and a sporting companion slaughter a few reindeer. He takes a cruise, at another season of the year, among the cod-fishing stations of the Lofodden Isles, which remind us of the Outer Hebrides described by Mr. Robert Buchanan. Thence his voyage is continued to Alten, in Finmark, and the Duke of Roxburgh's salmon preserve, in which Prince Alfred enjoyed good sport in 1864; to Hammerfest, the most northerly town in the world, but still kept warm by the Gulf Stream; and so round the North Cape to the easterly coast of Varanger, bordering on Russia, where the rivers Pasvig and Tana, with their unequalled fishing, yearly attract half a dozen enterprising Britons, while one of our countrymen, Mr. Clarke, has fixed his residence at Vadsö, on the shore of the Varanger Fjord. This remote, but not inaccessible or inhospitable, region seems to be worthy of better acquaintance, having a fertile soil, covered with noble pine forests, large tracts of cleared land and rich pastures, a great length of inland waters, and abundant natural wealth. It must resemble British Columbia in some of its best features. The roving sportsman will also read with interest the narrative contributed by a friend to Mr. Barnard's volume of a shooting visit to Hadselö, or Ilvö, one of the Lofodens, a great place for ptarmigan, grouse, and riper. This paper is written in a very good style; but another, by "H. A. S.," borrowed from the *Field* newspaper, relating a trip to the province of Nordland, is much defaced by the slang jocularity which many popular writers on sporting themes affect. We prefer the chapters that proceed from Mr. Barnard's own experience and observation, containing, as they do, nothing in bad taste, though full of lively anecdotes, as well as of picturesque views and stirring adventures. He tells us how the poor Lapps, in Finmark, contrive a hard living, with their herds of reindeer and their tents of skins stretched over a circle of slanting poles. He went among them in winter, journeying in a reindeer-sledge, when the cold was 36 deg. below zero of Fahrenheit; he likewise made acquaintance with the Skolte Finns and the Quæns, on the Russian frontier, amongst whom he met a priest able to speak Latin with the English clergyman. The substantial Norwegian farmers, or timber-owners, and the parish ministers of religion, in their comfortable parsonages, attending carefully to the instruction of the peasantry in church and school, appear to be worthy and well-to-do folk; but in the rustic poorer class there is a shocking prevalence of dirty and lazy habits, and drunkenness is common. Returning southward, below Drontheim or Trondhjem, the author leads us through the beautiful country of Romsdal, with its deep sea-fjords, like the bays of Western Ireland or Scottish lochs, their shores clad in soft verdure and foliage, behind them a range of hills overgrown with birch-forests, and lofty peaks towering above; the neighbouring districts of Sondmøre and of Sogne, with the tremendous defiles and cliffs among their mountains; the celebrated Hardangerfjord, near Bergen, and thence eastward to the river Glommen and the valley of Osterdal, on the Swedish border

where he shows us some elk-hunting. It is not there, but in the highlands of Nystuen, in the Fille Fjeld, that he places his description of reindeer-hunting, that peculiar Norwegian sport. A chapter is specially devoted to this subject, but many stories about it are introduced elsewhere. Bear-hunting, too, of which Mr. Barnard has learnt some particulars from the reports of others, is sufficiently noticed. All sorts of lesser game and milder sport, down to angling for trout in waters not far from the city of Christiania, without braving the serious discomforts of travel in provincial Norway, are discussed in this book. The ascent of Galdhöppigen, the loftiest mountain in that country, 8300 ft. above the sea level, was achieved by Mr. Axel Elytt, a friend of the author, six or seven years ago, and may be emulated by our Alpine Club. Mr. Barnard has varied his sketches of natural scenes and tales of sporting exploits with some legends of Norwegian domestic history, which are characteristic and original. His book provides for every class of readers something or other likely to prove agreeable.

A very agreeable and amusing collection of chatty anecdotes, entitled *Reminiscences of Fifty Years*, is published by Longmans and Co. The author, Mr. Mark Boyd, of Oatlands, Walton-on-Thames, is well-known, both in London and Australia, having been engaged from 1843 to 1853, with his brother, the late Mr. Benjamin Boyd, in useful efforts to promote systematic colonisation, by arranging for a mutually profitable alliance between the interests of land and labour. Living in the metropolis forty years, he has retained the native humour and geniality, as well as the shrewdly observant habit of mind, which belong to Lowland Scotchmen. He has constantly "sat at good men's feasts," and has gathered a plentiful store of good after-dinner stories, which he has the skill to relate with the best literary effect, as all readers of this pleasant volume will agree. It contains as many as 166 little incidents of manners or conversation, each distinctly named and numbered; some of them derived from the author's personal experience, in a long and varied intercourse with men of different ranks and characters; others which he learnt from credible persons of his private acquaintance. The chief defect of the book is its want of an index or table of contents, which may, perhaps, be supplied in a future edition—likely to be demanded, we should think, by the popularity it deserves to win; since the Scottish Reminiscences of Dean Ramsay, a work on the same plan, have just reached a nineteenth edition. Mr. Boyd, like Dean Ramsay, has not only a keen perception of individual character, with a faculty of dramatic reproduction, but a lively sense of the quaintness and quaintness of peculiar modes of expression usual with Scotchmen, Irishmen, cockneys, and uneducated provincials, or with people of certain classes in English social life. He has, moreover, the advantage of knowing much more than ordinary men of the world commonly know about some persons of rank and fame in his time, or in his father's time, either from having met them on particular occasions, or from being intimate with their friends and colleagues. Here are original stories of Pitt, Nelson, Wellington, Palmerston, Brougham, the late Marquis of Lansdowne, and the late Earl of Derby, as well as of Lord Clyde, whom the author knew well; of Rogers, Campbell, Dibdin, and other literary men of the last generation; of several notable humourists in Scotland; of royal dukes, city aldermen, bishops, judges, captains, attorneys, politicians, and other kinds of people. Amidst this crowd of living characters, every one of them shown by a feature of his behaviour, speech, or manner, are interspersed Mr. Boyd's recollections of tours in Spain, France, and Russia, and a visit to Antwerp during the bombardment of its citadel by the French army forty years ago. He has provided for his readers a large amount of entertainment in a small compass.

The stream of poetry never gets dry, though it is to be hoped that the drinkers thereat (if allusion to a vulgar expression be allowable) do. Persons afflicted in that creditable manner have no end of opportunities. There is *Virgil*, by James Lonsdale, M.A., and Samuel Lee, M.A. (Macmillan and Co.). The volume forms one of the excellent "Globe Edition." The worst (or the best) of it is that the old Roman poetry has been transformed into English prose. We have, in fact, a translation, and, moreover, a translation "intended partly for the use of students." Consequently, the original has "been faithfully rendered, and paraphrase altogether avoided." Under such circumstances, what can be said but that, both translators having been as competent as any could be to fulfil the task they undertook, the result is more likely to be useful to the living student than to lay the ghost of the departed poet? The translators were, of course, from their very competency, painfully aware, as they confess, of the difficulty they bravely faced; and, though they modestly despair of having "attained a high degree of success," only a rash man would hope to attain a higher. Of *Leparon to Pavola, and other Poems*, by Edward Arundel Gare, St. John's College, Cambridge (Longmans), it may be said that the author, though he is pretty sure to be accused of imitation, writes what is uncommonly like poetry, and what many sympathetic readers will undoubtedly set down as the genuine article. *The Poems of Sir Robert Aytoun*, with a memoir, from original sources of information, by the Rev. Charles Rogers, LL.D. (privately printed for the author), is eminently adapted to the taste of such persons as are imbued with the spirit of antiquity to an extent which will induce them to investigate the pedigree of a worthy knight who was "private secretary, first to Anne, and then to Mary, the most excellent Queens of Great Britain;" to appreciate the smooth, graceful, classically-tinged lyrics, which were in vogue at his epoch, and were not uncommonly written with a sordid object; and to struggle through a dozen or more of those Latin poems whereby the learned gentlemen of the seventeenth century were prone to prove their scholarship. Signs of a cultivated mind, a poetical fancy, and a facility in versification are noticeable in *Aletes; and other Poems*, by Matthew Gower (Williams and Norgate); and the modest estimate which the author gives of his own work might be truthfully altered into a far higher one. *Harold Erlé: A Biography*; by the Author of "The Story of a Life" (E. Moxon and Son), is chiefly remarkable for straightforward simplicity of style and unvarying regularity and evenness. It is written in blank verse, which flows along in smooth and easy rhythm; and, if homeliness be the principal characteristic of the ideas, they are natural and by no means unpleasing. At p. 116, also, the author has shown that, if it so please him, he can write a song with rhymes and musical numbers after the usual pattern. *Rowena; or, the Poet's Daughter*, by James Cargill Guthrie (Hodder and Stoughton), is a poem wherein Rowena and the poet carry on, as it were, a discussion in blank verse, interrupted occasionally by a song, sung generally by Rowena, in which the luxury of rhyme is not abstained from. The poet is represented at the commencement as having formed a desperate resolve; he has determined to gather together and burn all his poetical effusions (forming a "structure vast")

and to give himself up seriously to the pursuit of Mammon. He proclaims his intention to himself in a soliloquy so loud that he is overheard by his daughter, who confronts him, protests, and wrestles with him in speech. The author is evidently devoted to the culture of the Muses; and they, in recompense, have given him a lift up the slope of Parnassus.

The following are the titles of the new books received within the last week or two, some claiming a further notice:—"Letters on International Relations before and during the War of 1870," by the *Times* Correspondent at Berlin (two volumes, Tinsley Brothers); "The War Correspondence of the *Daily News*, continued from the Recapture of Orleans by the Germans to the Peace, edited with Notes and Comments" (Macmillan and Co.); "Critical Miscellanies," essays on Vauvenargues, Condorcet, Joseph de Maistre, Carlyle, Byron, Greek Conceptions of Social Growth, and the Development of Morals, by John Morley (Chapman and Hall); "Memorials of Agnes Elizabeth Jones" (a volunteer lady nurse for hospitals), by her Sister, with introduction by Florence Nightingale (Strahan and Co.); "Rambles of an Archaeologist Among Old Books and in Old Places," by Frederick W. Fairholt, illustrated with 259 engravings; "Virtue and Co.," "The Green-Eyed Monster," by Kay Spen, author of "True of Heart," &c., (Smith, Elder, and Co.); "Desperate Remedies," a novel in three volumes (Tinsley Brothers); "Only a Commoner," by Henry Morford, (three volumes, Tinsley); "Maurice Rhynhart; or, A Few Passages in the Life of an Irish Rebel," by J. T. Listado (two volumes, Chapman and Hall); "The Secret Documents of the Second Empire," translated by T. Curry (W. Tweedie); "The Georgics of Virgil," translated by R. D. Blackmore, M.A., Exeter College, Oxford (Sampson Low, Son, and Marston); "Poems and Sonnets," by George Barlow (J. C. Hotten); "Intaglios," or Sonnets, by John Payne, author of "The Masque of Shadows" (Pickering); "Wallenstein's Camp," translated from Schiller, by Lieutenant-Colonel T. Wrigman (David Nutt); "That Heathen Chinee," and other poems, mostly humorous, by F. Bret Harte (J. C. Hotten); "Mental Flights," verses political and sentimental, by Caroline Giffard Phillipson (Chapman and Hall); "Bernard Alvers and the War Witch," a Poetical Romance, by Joseph Longland (Provost and Co.); "Our Duty to Animals," by Mrs. Charles Bray (S. W. Partridge); "The Triumph of Evolution," and other poems, by Joseph Merrin (Longmans); "The MacCallum More," a History of the Argyll Family from the Earliest Times, by the Rev. Hely Smith (Bemrose and Sons); "Convict Once," a Poem, by J. Brunton Stephens (Macmillan); "Reminiscences of Mark Lemon," with a Show in the North, and Mark Lemon's Revised Text of Falstaff, by Joseph Hatton (W. H. Allen and Co.); "France before Europe," by Jules Michelet, translated from the French (Smith, Elder, and Co.); "Lucie's Diary of the Siege of Strasbourg," by a Young Lady of Alsace (Smith, Elder, and Co.); Centenary Edition of Waverley Novels, "Quentin Durward" (Adam and Charles Black); Collected Edition of Mr. Disraeli's novels and tales, "Henrietta Temple" (Longmans); "Her Own Fault," by Mrs. Spender (Hurst and Blackett); "A New Sea and a New Land," or the Opening of the Suez Canal, by Colonel W. G. Hamley (W. Blackwood and Sons); "Russia in 1870," by Herbert Barry (Wyman and Sons); "Conversations on War and General Culture," by the Author of "Friends in Council" (Smith, Elder, and Co.); "Camp Life," as seen by a civilian in the Crimea, by Dr. George Buchanan (Maclehose, Glasgow); "Suburban Sketches," by W. D. Howells (Sampson Low, Son, and Marston); "Readings in Holy Writ," by Lord Kinloch (Edmonston and Douglas); "Lectures on the Laws of Life, and Physical Education of Girls," by Elizabeth Blackwell, M.D. (Sampson Low, Son, and Marston); "Banking and Finance," by a Bank Manager (Bemrose and Sons); "Parisiana, or the Real Truth about the Bombardment," by Cameron Stuart Macdowall, Surgeon of the Indian Army (Provost and Co.); "Handbook of Hardy Herbaceous and Alpine Flowers," by W. Sutherland (W. Blackwood and Sons).

A dinner was given last week at Cambridge to Mr. C. S. Newton, of Croxton Park, the late master of the Cambridgeshire Hunt, and to Mr. C. Lindsell, of Biggleswade, the present master. A testimonial was presented to Mr. Newton.

The next mails for Australia will be dispatched from London as follow:—Via Southampton, on the morning of Saturday, April 15; via Brindisi, on the evening of Friday, April 21.

The Duke of Beaufort has informed his tenantry that he has decided to do without keepers for the future, and to intrust the preservation of game and foxes to his tenantry. His Grace says that if the tenantry prevent all poaching and trespassing they will be entitled to one half of the game killed on their farms, his Grace retaining the exclusive right of shooting and sporting for himself and friends.

The Canadian Dominion Directory for 1871, published by Mr. John Lovell, of Montreal, is a volume the bulk and fulness of which rivals the great and useful works of Messrs. Kelly and Co. for London, the suburbs, the six home counties, and the other most populous districts of England. It contains more than 2500 pages, including all that belongs to each of the several provinces, Ontario, Quebec, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Newfoundland, and Prince Edward Island. The names and professions or trades of all the settled inhabitants, above the labouring class, in all cities, towns, and villages, with the street addresses of those dwelling in the chief cities, will here be found. The situation and condition of each locality are briefly described; and there is a great store of information, statistical or official, with lists of post offices and banks, railways, steam-boat and telegraph directions, customs' tariffs, and other serviceable matter. Messrs. Kelly and Co. are the agents for this work in London.

An action in which Mr. Otto Goldschmidt and his wife, Madame Jenny Lind-Goldschmidt, sought to recover damages from the publisher of *Public Opinion* for libel, was tried at the Kingston Assizes on Thursday week. It was contained in a paragraph which was inserted on Jan. 21 last, quoting the following statement from a New York publication:—"Jenny Lind's husband has at length run through the splendid fortune with which she retired from the lyric stage, and she is compelled to teach music for a living. The ill-matched pair have separated by mutual consent, and the spendthrift must now shift for himself." The Solicitor-General said that there was not the slightest foundation for these slanders; that it was a marriage of affection; that Mr. and Mrs. Goldschmidt had lived together nearly twenty years in unclouded happiness; that Jenny Lind's fortune was settled upon her, and that it had increased largely. Both Madame Lind-Goldschmidt and her husband gave evidence, and denied that there was a word of truth in the paragraph. The jury returned a verdict for the plaintiffs—damages, £750. Two other actions arising out of the same libel, against the printers of the *American Register* and the *London Reader*, were tried, and damages amounting to £750 and £500 respectively were given.



THE CIVIL WAR IN PARIS: THE RUE DE LA PAIX AND PLACE VENDOME GUARDED BY THE INSURGENTS.



THE CIVIL WAR IN PARIS: BARRICADES IN FRONT OF THE HOTEL DE VILLE.

THE CIVIL WAR IN PARIS.

Several Illustrations from sketches by our Artists in Paris represent the menacing aspect of some quarters during the week before last, after the first outbreak, on Saturday, the 18th ult., of the conflict in that city between the insurgent Red Republican portion of the National Guards and the Government of M. Thiers, appointed by the National Assembly. The immediate occasion of this conflict was the intention of the Government to take possession of all the artillery presented to the National Guard by public subscription during the siege of Paris by the German army. It will be remembered that when the Germans were about to enter the Champs Elysées, after the capitulation, a tumultuous multitude of National Guards from the battalions of Belleville and Montmartre, under the influence of Ultra-Democratic leaders, seized these guns in the night, and carried them off to the hill called the Butte de Montmartre, a place of the same kind as Primrose-hill in relation to the north-western quarter of Paris. They have since the attempt of the Government, by aid of the regular troops, to recover this artillery, converted the Butte de Montmartre into a formidable redoubt, and parked the guns, with the ammunition-waggons behind, along the steep, winding road towards the summit of the hill. This is shown in one of our Artist's sketches. The insurgents have not, indeed, kept a very strict guard at Montmartre, being sure that this stronghold of their faction could hardly be taken by surprise. To see their greatest display of force, it was enough just to turn aside from

the most fashionable Boulevard, near the Grand Opera, and pass through the magnificent Rue de la Paix towards the Place Vendôme, the head-quarters of the committee of the National Guards. Its appearance was that of a barrack-yard. Here some of the insurgent National Guards were stationed, their arms being piled. They had with them four pieces of artillery. They had erected barricades of paving-stones across the street, with embrasures for the guns. The National Guards straggled all over the place. A favourite place was on the steps inside the railings at the foot of the column; here they sat and smoked, and, in imagination, governed France. The passage of the streets leading into the Place Vendôme was stopped for vehicles; but people walking might pass, though liable to be questioned and turned back if they did not please the men on guard. After the affair of Wednesday, the 22nd, when a number of unarmed citizens entering the Place Vendôme for a pacific moral demonstration against the revolt were shot down and slaughtered by the insurgent National Guards, the cannon were pointed down the Rue de la Paix and the Rue de Castiglione, one way towards the Boulevards, the other way towards the Louvre. On the Sunday following, when the municipal elections took place, under the dictation of the insurgents, the guns were turned backward, towards the column in the centre of the Place Vendôme, as a token that the party there holding its position was no longer apprehensive of an attack. The house occupied by the revolutionary committee, in the Place Vendôme, was that belonging to the

Ministry of War. The place next distinguished as the abode of the Red Republican power was the Hôtel de Ville. Thousands of armed National Guards, in half-military half-civilian dress, many of them uncouth, shabby, and dirty, were thronging the Place de l'Hôtel de Ville all day, mingled with Garibaldian volunteers or Francs-Tireurs, Gardes Mobiles, soldiers of the Line who had deserted their regimental standards, Zouaves, and artillerymen. A line of new brass cannon, with their tumbrils, extended across the place. There were seventy or eighty of these guns. The men had piled their chassepots or muskets on the ground in military fashion. The approaches to the Hôtel de Ville or the entrances to the open place in front of it, from the Rue de Rivoli, and from the quays of the Seine, were closed to a hostile force by solid barricades. These were composed of clay, paving materials, brewers' drays, and big stone blocks taken from the unfinished part of the Hôtel Dieu. The hollow parts of the streets near the barricades, whence earth and paving-stones were extracted, were flooded, as a precaution against bombshells, which, it was supposed, would not explode if they fell into five or six inches of water. There was a narrow space at each end of the barricade for people to pass in and out. The Hôtel de Ville was surmounted with a red flag. Its windows were partly defended with sandbags and mattresses, and mitrailleuses were mounted upon tables and desks. Here was the new Government of the Red Republican faction, called the Commune of Paris, installed after the elections on Sunday week.

NATIONAL SPORTS.

The Oxford and Cambridge men monopolise our space to such an extent this week that we must dismiss racing matters as briefly as possible. The second day at Northampton was a decided improvement on the first, and it was refreshing to see a really high-class colt like Cymbal—one of the very few good Kettle-drums—winning the Spencer Plate in fine style, though conceding weight to the whole field. Countryman and Soucar, two more speedy animals, also won races, and Barford ran Dutch Skater to a standstill in the Queen's Plate. There was nothing worthy of note at Lewes, except the fine performance of Vulcan, who carries 9 st. 6 lb. into second place in the Lewes Handicap, being beaten only a neck by Westley, to whom he was giving 19 lb. This performance speaks volumes in favour of Veranda, who, in receipt of 4 lb., ran a dead-heat with Vulcan in the Lincoln Handicap. The steeplechases of the 10th Royal Hussars were remarkable for the fact that the Prince of Wales ran a horse in his own name for the first time, and the "purple and scarlet," in which the Chifneys so often rode, was once more seen on a racecourse.

A very successful meeting of the Scottish National Club wound up the coursing season with great éclat. The Biggar Stakes secured an entry of sixty-four, and was divided by Carlton, by Samuel—Lucy, and Glenavon, by Ingleton or Gaff—Wee Avon. Baffler and Cataclupe did not win a single course, and Blarney and Cavalier succumbed in the first ties. Sixty entered for the Douglas Cup, among which were most of the celebrated greyhounds of the day. Cavalier, Letter T, and Sea Cove all went down in the first round, and Latest News, Bed of Stone (who has not yet recovered from the effects of her desperate courses with Bendimere in the Waterloo Cup), Baffler, and Countryman, were disposed of in the first ties. Bendimere beat Bacchante in the third ties; but in the fourth Avonside was too clever for him, though she had not speed enough to compete with Smuggler, who won the deciding course in fine style, in spite of a heavy fall. The judging of Mr. Hay and the slipping of Kerss were excellent.

The recent athletic gala commenced on Thursday week, with the boxing for the Marquis of Queensberry's challenge cups. We have only space to say that H. J. Chinnery, showing all his wonderful quickness and cleverness, easily disposed of his solitary heavy-weight opponent, and is a champion for the fifth year in succession; that C. E. Streetfield, of Pembroke College, Oxford, had to fight very hard before he became champion of the middle-weights; and that P. V. Churton had very little trouble in disposing of the five light-weights, and retaining the title which he won last year. The wrestling bouts between W. Armstrong and Lieutenant G. H. Edmonds, in which the former scored two falls out of three, were very good; the winner, however, was objected to on the score of being a professional, but we have not yet heard the decision of the committee.

The Inter-University sports took place at Lillie Bridge on the following day, in the presence of some 6500 spectators. On comparing the performances at the two Universities it was evident that, unless luck was very much against them, the Oxford men must win the odd event, yet, for some unaccountable reason, odds were laid out he light blues. Public form, however, proved correct, as Oxford carried off five and divided one out of the nine events. We never remember to have seen closer or prettier racing, as almost every contest produced a hard fight. For the third year in succession J. G. Wilson (Oxford) won the 100 yards; but for once he had to do all he knew, and only got home 6 in. before R. Philpot (Cambridge). The latter defeated A. R. Upcher (Cambridge) for the quarter-mile in 50 3-5th sec.; and after this brilliant performance the idea that Lillie Bridge is an exceptionally slow ground must be abandoned. The struggle between T. Christie (Oxford) and C. F. Gunton (Cambridge) for the mile was worth a long journey to witness, and it was very gratifying to see the former, who made such a grand race with Benson last year, win a splendid contest by three yards. A. F. Clarke (Oxford) had it all his own way in the three miles; and, of the minor events, the fine performance of A. W. Churchward (Cambridge), who threw the hammer 105 ft. 5 1/2 in., was alone noticeable.

Little can be said of the boat-race, as from start to finish the Cambridge men had it all their own way. A finer crew were never sent up to Putney; and, with the exception of a few strokes when they had just passed Hammersmith Bridge, their rowing was simply perfect. The Oxford crew had plenty of strength, but was too "rough and ready," and seemed to want quite another fortnight's polish, as the condition of one or two of the men was by no means what it should have been. Too much praise cannot be given to the respective strokes; to Goldie for the judgment which he showed in waiting in front all the way, and never hustling his men with unnecessary spurts; and to Lesley for his splendid rowing, and the determination with which he sustained the desperate spurt that took his crew within a length of Cambridge at the finish. The dark blues might have been steered better; still, this did not affect the actual result; and no impartial observer could doubt that the verdict might have been "two lengths" had the winners desired it. The attendance, probably owing to the early hour at which the race took place, was far smaller than usual. We give portraits of the two crews, taken from photographs by Messrs.

Hills and Saunders. The following are the names and weights:—

CAMBRIDGE.	st. lb.
1. J. S. Follett, Third Trinity	11 6 1/2
2. J. R. Close, First Trinity	11 6 1/2
3. H. Lomax, First Trinity	12 2
4. E. A. Spencer, Second Trinity	12 9
5. W. H. Lowe, Christ's	12 10
6. E. Phelps, Sidney	12 1
7. E. S. L. Randolph, Third Trinity	11 10
J. H. D. Goldie, St. John's (stroke)	12 6 1/2
H. E. Gordon, First Trinity (cox.)	7 13
OXFORD.	st. lb.
1. S. H. Woodhouse, Univ.	11 6 1/2
2. E. Giles, Christchurch	11 13 1/2
3. T. S. Baker, Queen's	13 3 1/2
4. E. C. Malan, Worcester	13 1
5. J. E. Edwards-Moss, Balliol	12 8 1/2
6. F. H. Payne, St. John's	12 9 1/2
7. J. M. C. Bunbury, Brasenose	11 8
R. Lesley, Pembroke (stroke)	11 10 1/2
F. H. Hall, Corpus (cox.)	7 10 1/2

The Champion Athletic meeting was arranged, as usual, to follow closely the Inter-University sports, and took place on Monday last. Decidedly the feature of the day was the victory of W. M. Chinnery in the mile, and the style in which he came away from T. Christie, the Oxford crack, and won by twenty yards, in 4 min. 31 4-5 sec., excited the greatest enthusiasm among the London amateurs, with whom he is deservedly so great a favourite. Nor must J. Scott's grand performance in the four miles be overlooked; he had not much to beat, though A. Wheeler, a complete novice, ran uncommonly well, but he did the distance in 20 min. 38 sec.—by far the fastest time on record; and his meeting with Chinnery in the London Athletic Club mile challenge cup, which takes place at Lillie Bridge on the 15th inst., will be the most exciting race that has been run in London for years. R. J. Mitchell, of Rossendale, for the third time, won the high and pole jumps and putting the weight; but on this occasion he only succeeded in making a dead-heat with E. J. Davies for the broad jump. The half-mile, in which the Hon. A. L. Pelham beat A. J. C. Dowding, was a wonderfully close but slow-run race; and A. R. Upcher scored a pretty easy victory in the quarter, for the second successive year.

WEEKLY RETURN OF BIRTHS AND DEATHS.

The Registrar-General gives the following return of births and deaths in London and in nineteen other large towns of the United Kingdom during the week ending April 1:—

In London 2284 births and 1546 deaths were registered. After making due allowance for increase of population, the births were 160, and the deaths 123, below the average numbers in the corresponding week of the ten previous years. Seven deaths of persons aged ninety years and upwards were registered last week, of which one was a farmer who died in West Plumstead sub-district, and was reported to have attained the age of one hundred years and eight months. Zymotic diseases caused 368 deaths, including 192 from smallpox, 13 from measles, 33 from scarlet fever, 6 from diphtheria, 41 from whooping-cough, 31 from fever (of which 7 were certified as typhus, 13 as enteric or typhoid, and 11 as simple continued fever), and 14 from diarrhoea. Except a slight decline in the fatal cases of smallpox, the numbers of deaths from this disease showed but slight variations upon those in the previous week. The fatal cases of smallpox in London, which had been 227, 213, 194, 185, and 205 in the five previous weeks, declined again to 192 in the week ending last Saturday. The fatal cases last week in the different groups of districts showed but slight variations from the numbers in the previous week; they were, however, more numerous in the St. Pancras district, including Somers, Camden, and Kentish Towns. Not a single fatal case was returned in Marylebone. In Shoreditch and Bethnal-green districts the disease continues very fatally prevalent.

During the week 5684 births and 3575 deaths were registered in London and nineteen other large cities and towns of the United Kingdom. The aggregate mortality in the week was at the rate of 25 deaths annually to every 1000 of the present estimated population. The annual rates of mortality last week in the seventeen English cities and towns, stated in the order of their topographical arrangement, were as follows:—London, 25 per 1000; Portsmouth, 16; Norwich, 17; Bristol, 21; Wolverhampton, 15; Birmingham, 21; Leicester, 23; Nottingham, 21; Liverpool, 36; Manchester, 27; Salford, 27; Bradford, 18; Leeds, 23; Sheffield, 19; Hull, 20; Sunderland, 22; and Newcastle-on-Tyne, 24. The fatal cases of smallpox in these towns were 275 last week, against 294 and 318 in the two previous weeks; 192 were returned in London, 73 in Liverpool, 2 in Newcastle-on-Tyne, 3 in Portsmouth, 2 in Manchester, and 1 each in Birmingham, Salford, and Sunderland. The annual death-rate from smallpox was equal to 7 per 1000 last week in Liverpool, and to 3 in London. The fatality from measles has declined in both Manchester and Birmingham. In Edinburgh the annual rate of mortality from all causes last week was 30 per 1000 persons living, in Glasgow 35 per 1000, and in Dublin 25.

The Belgian Federal Rifle-Match has been fixed for July.

An extensive bed of oysters has been discovered off Tenby, on the South Wales coast.

Lieutenant-General Sir James Hope Grant will be the commanding officer at the review at Brighton on Easter Monday.

Dr. George Burrows, F.R.S., was, on Monday, elected president of the Royal College of Physicians.

LIFE-BOAT SERVICES.

A meeting of the Royal National Life-Boat Institution was held, on Thursday, at its house, John-street, Adelphi—Mr. Thomas Chapman, F.R.S., V.P., in the chair. Mr. Richard Lewis, the secretary, having read the minutes of the previous meeting, rewards amounting to £162 were voted to the crews of various life-boats for services during the storms of the past month, in which period the boats had saved forty lives from different wrecks, besides assisting to save eleven vessels and boats and other crews, numbering thirty-six men.

The services rendered by the Ramsgate and Broadstairs life-boats to the crew of a foreign vessel, the barque Idun, of Bergen, in rescuing the crew of fourteen men, together with the master's son and daughter, were of a most noble character. The rescue was attended with great peril to the two life-boats, which grounded on the Goodwin Sands near the wreck and had to beat over them to leeward through a boiling sea breaking heavily over the boats for three hours, when they succeeded in getting off and were taken in tow by the harbour steamer.

Various other rewards were also granted to the crews of shore-boats for saving life from wrecks on our coasts. Payments amounting to £1600 were also ordered to be made on various life-boat establishments. The institution has now a noble fleet of 228 boats on different parts of our coast, and it contributes every year to the saving of about one thousand lives from shipwrecks. A contribution of £680 had been received from a friend through the hands of Thomas Chapman, Esq., F.R.S., deputy chairman of the institution, to defray the cost of a life-boat, to be named the "Clara Baker," which is to be placed at Flamborough Head. Sir Robert Peel, Bart., M.P., had also given a contribution of £20. The late Mr. J. S. Bullard, of Strood, Kent, had left the institution a legacy of £25; and the late William Speight, of Osset, York, one of £20. Captain Bloomfield, of the Chinese clipper-ship Tiet-Sing, had collected £3 4s. 9d. on board his vessel for the Life-Boat Fund from Chinese and others—about £1 being in Chinese, Japanese, and other foreign coins. A new life-boat had been sent, last month, by the institution to Morle Bay, near Ilfracombe. The boat, which is named Jack-a-Jack, was provided by Bristol shipmasters in the African trade; and it was publicly exhibited and launched, a few weeks since, at Bristol, en route to its station, thousands of persons assembling to welcome the boat. Reports were read from the inspector and assistant inspector of life-boats on their recent visits to various life-boat stations. The proceedings then terminated.

Since the passing of the Act of 1866 the certified surpluses of income over expenditure have amounted together to £22,491,773, and one fourth—viz., £5,622,943—has been applied in reduction of the National Debt, either by the purchase of stock to be cancelled, the payment of Exchequer bills, or the repayment of deficiency advances made by the Bank of England.

Some of the troops at Aldershot were formed, on Thursday week, into a flying column for the purpose of instruction in the formation of camps. Lieutenant-General Sir J. Hope Grant, G.C.B., accompanied by many officers of the divisional staff, arrived on the ground and inspected the troops. At the conclusion of the inspection the column proceeded to the vicinity of the Long Valley, where an encampment was formed, everything, such as scouts, patrols, guards, and sentries, being posted as if in actual warfare.

MONETARY AND COMMERCIAL TRANSACTIONS.

(From our City Correspondent.)

The French Government having taken offensive operations against the anarchists, which have been attended by success, an improved feeling has prevailed in the Stock Exchange during the week. The French Loan has been more freely dealt in, and a recovery of about 4 per cent has been established in the quotations. The Foreign Bond market in general has been firm, and values have been well maintained. Railway Stocks, also, have commanded more attention, and prices have ruled steady. For English Government Securities there has been a moderate demand. Consols have marked 92 1/2 to 93 for delivery, and 92 1/2 to 93 for May. Reduced and New Three per Cents, 91 1/2 to 91 1/4; Bank Stock, 239 to 241; Exchequer Bills, par to 5s. prem.; India Five per Cents, 112 to 113; and India Bonds, 10s. to 18s. prem. Colonial Government Securities have been quiet, but firm.

In English Railway Stocks a fair average business has been transacted, and prices have been steady. Caledonian, 88 1/2 to 88 1/4; Metropolitan, 68 1/2 to 69 1/4; Brighton, 52 1/2 to 53 1/2; South-Eastern, 84 to 84 1/2; Great Northern, A, 133 to 134; Great Eastern, 42 1/2 to 42 1/4; North-Eastern, 148 1/2 to 149; Midland, 129 to 129 1/2; North-Western, 131 1/2 to 131 1/4; and Great Western, 88 1/2 to 88 1/4.

Although business in Foreign Bonds has not been extensive, the market has been steady, and values have been maintained. The French Six per Cent loan has recovered to 92 1/2; Brazilian Scrip has been flat, at 3 1/2 to 3 1/4; Argentine, 1861, 91 to 92; Egyptian, 1868, 75 1/2 to 76 1/2; Italian, 1861, 58 1/2 to 54 1/2; Mexican, 14 1/2 to 14 1/4; Spanish, 1867, 30 11-16 to 30 13-16; Turkish Five per Cents, 43 1/2 to 43 1/4; Ditto, 1869, 50 to 50 1/2; United States 5-20, 1882, Bonds, 92 1/2 to 92 1/4; Ditto 1885, 92 1/2 to 92 1/4.

Business in Bank Shares has been restricted, and Telegraph Securities have commanded but little attention. Miscellaneous Securities have sold slowly.

The Discount Market has been well supplied with capital. There has not been much inquiry for accommodation, and three-months' paper has been taken at 2 1/2 to 2 3/4 per cent.

As regards the exchanges, bills on Paris and the French provinces have been almost unsalable; otherwise, the rates show no alteration.

The feature of the week has been the introduction, by Messrs. Murrieta, of the Argentine loan for £6,122,400. The price of issue has been 86 1/2; or, reckoning allowances, £87 2s. per cent. The Bonds bear 6 per cent interest; but the return to the investor is 7 1/2 per cent per annum. The proceeds of the loan are to be devoted to the construction of railways and to other landed objects. The loan has been well received, and is quoted at 1 to 1 1/2 prem.

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